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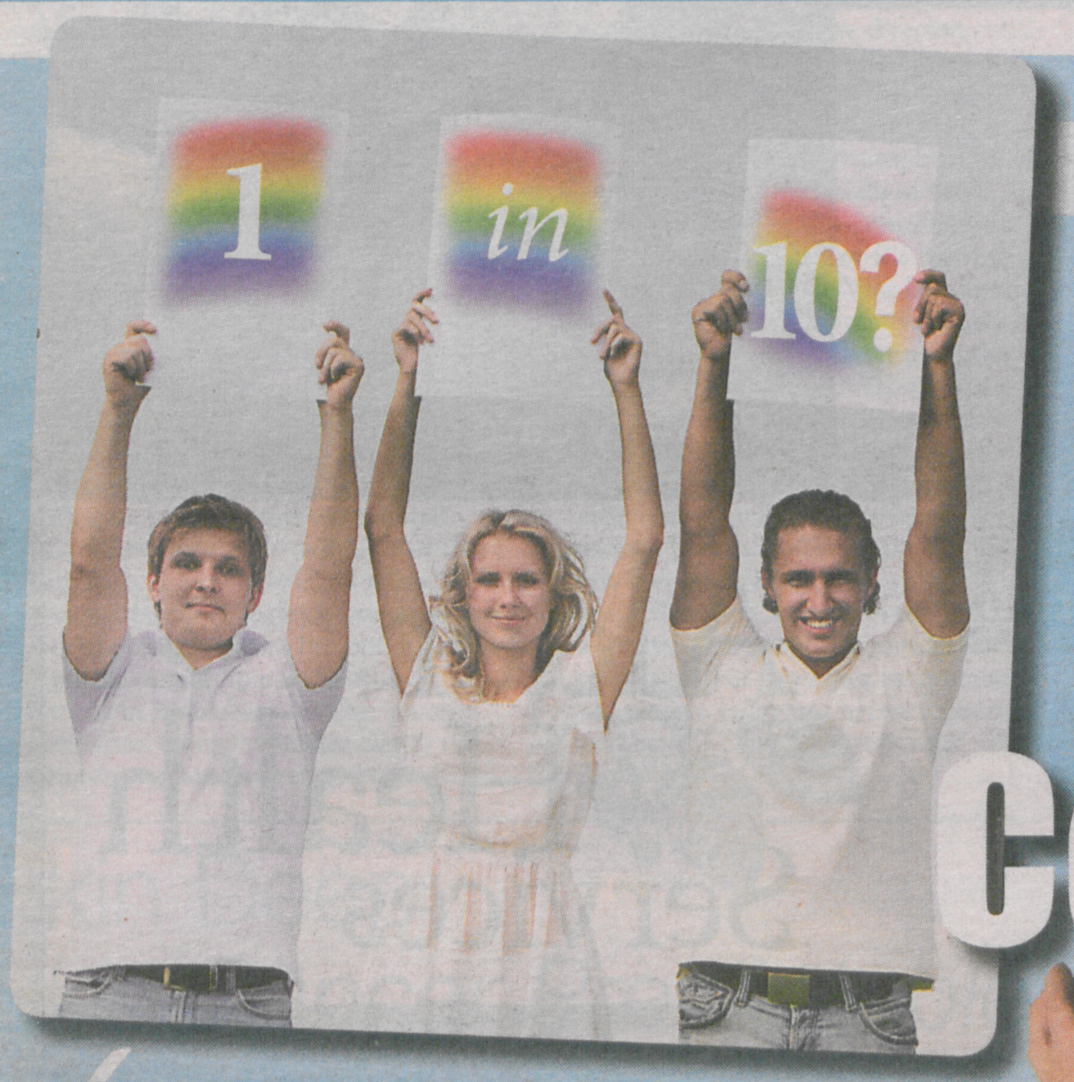
JULY/AUGUST 2011

INSIDE:
Official 2011 PrideGuide



Historically, the claim has been 1 in 10 people are gay, although the movement itself never had a reliable way to make that claim.

ISSUE ANALYSIS:

CENSUS DATA

Count me in

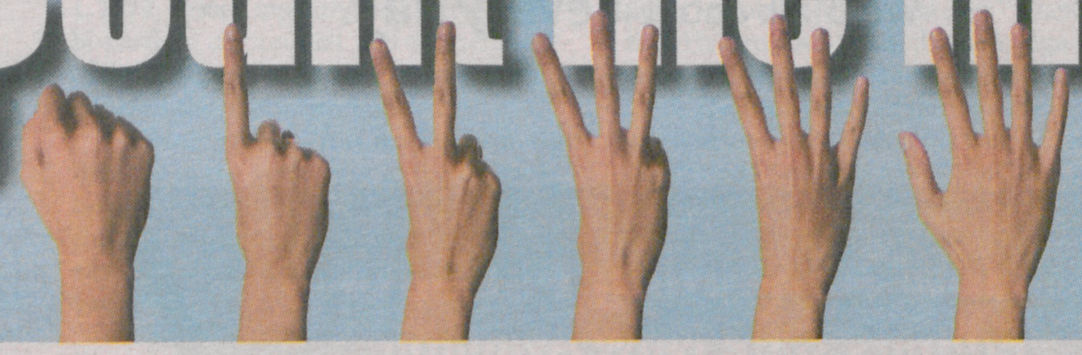
By Frank Pizzoli

At press time, Central Voice learned from Williams Institute's Gary J. Gates that 2010 US Census data for same-sex couples will be released weekly beginning June 16, when data for Alabama and Hawaii were released. Each week thereafter numbers on a couple of states in no special order will be reported out.

No word on when Pennsylvania information may be available. Meanwhile, the information below on Dauphin, Cumberland, Lancaster, and York counties is based on Gates culling four recent national and two state-level population-based surveys.

By counting same-sex couples, Census officials reversed an earlier Bush administration decision. "They will be counted, and they ought to report the way they see themselves," census spokesman Steve Jost said at the time. "I think the country will have a good data set on which to discuss this phenomenon that is evolving in this country," he said.

Continued on page 14 >



Community Center Reflects

By Frank Pizzoli

Following a mutually-agreed upon departure of their first paid executive director within months of her hire, the LGBT Community Center Coalition has been in the crosshairs of scrutiny. Donna Rose vacated the position March 18.

Rev. Dr. Terry Drew Karanen, New Thought Center of Central Pennsylvania, said in an email that he "greatly appreciated Central Voice's extensive and candidly open article on Donna Rose's departure from the LGBT Community Center Coalition. Your coverage has gener-

Continued on page 14 >

MORE:
Marin on the move
see p. 16

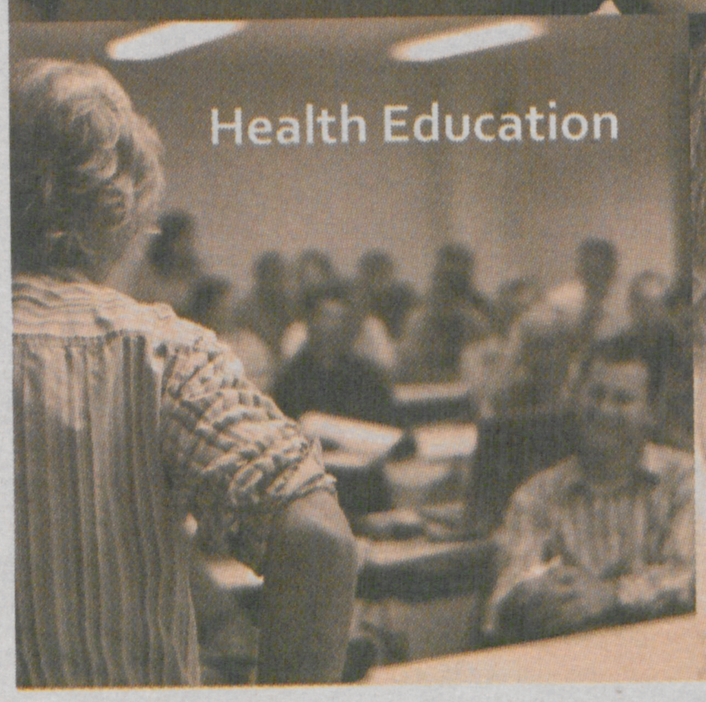
20th Festival on Full Strength

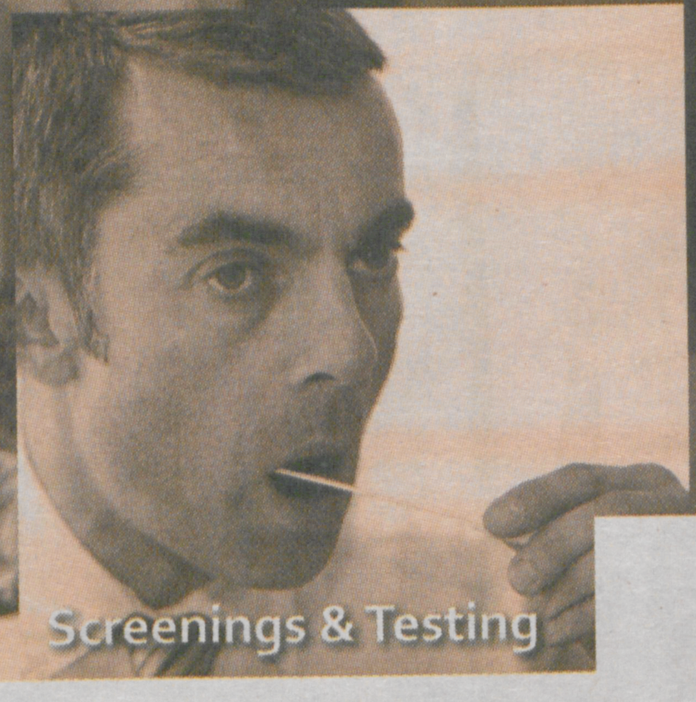
With two entertainment stages for 2011, Pride Festival of Central Pa. is set for its 20th anniversary event.

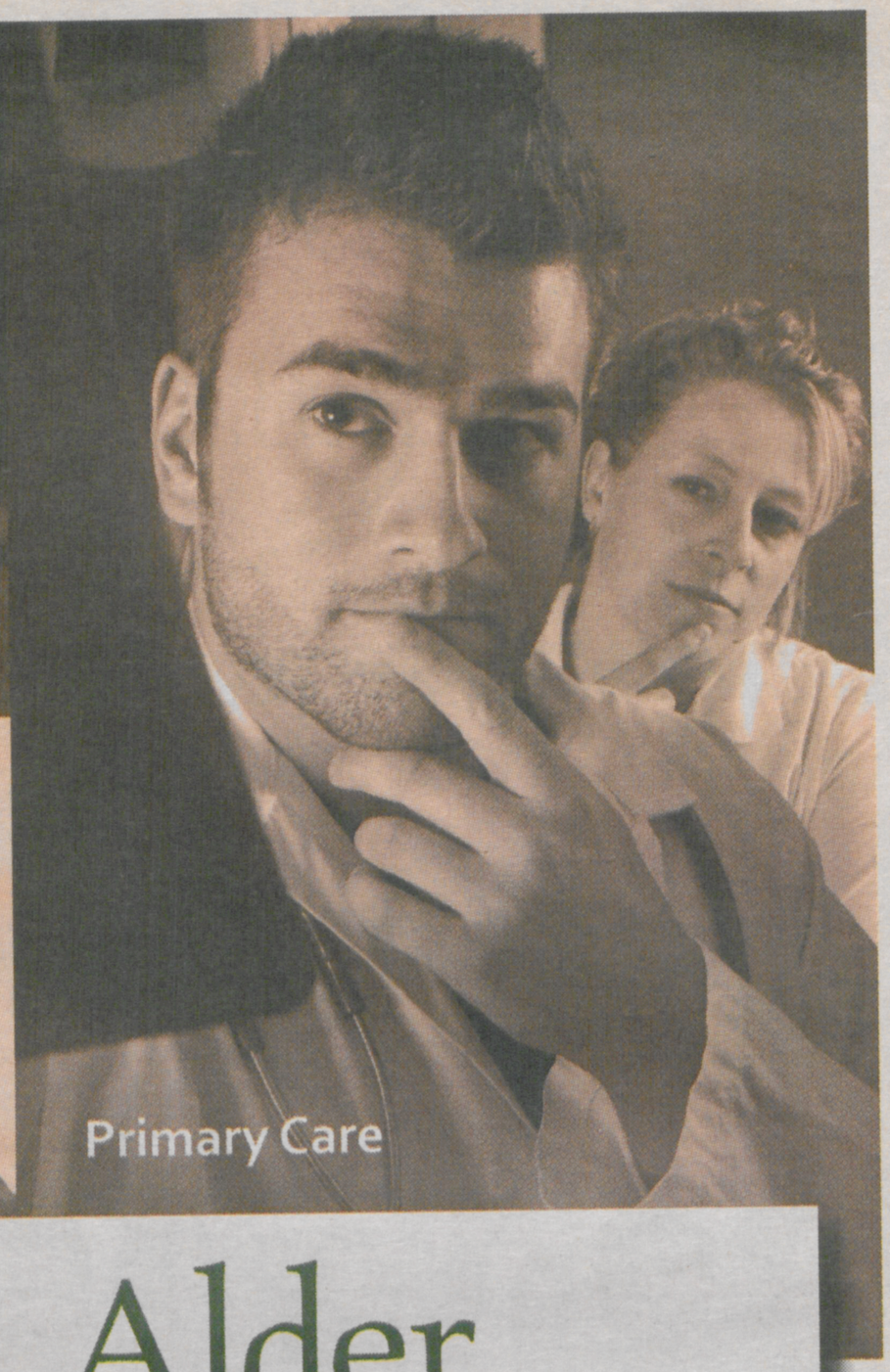
Day of entertainers are Mountain Road, Darkes, M 80's, Tom Goss, Kim English, DeMarcio, and talented Drag Performers. Full event schedule in Pride Guide.

Special events include July 22 Pride Shabbat, July 23 Altland's Ranch "Party with Pride", benefitting Pride, July 28 screening "March On" at Harrisburg's Midtown Cinema, benefitting Equality Pennsylvania.

July 29 is the ever popular Voices United Concert, Market Square Presbyterian Church, July 29 "I'm From Driftwood" at Harrisburg's Midtown Scholar Bookstore, July 29 Official Pre-Pride Party, Liquid 891, July 30 Pride Festival presented By Highmark Blue Shield, July 30 Official Post Pride Party, Liquid 891, July 31 Capital Region Stonewall Democrats Pride Forum, Midtown Scholar Bookstore, July 31 Spirits United Interfaith Service, St. Paul's UCC, Mechanicsburg.







Alder Health Services

How often do you think about your health?

We think about it ***every day.***

Now Accepting Patients -
Primary Care Now Available
At Alder Health

Health Services and Programs dedicated to the unique needs of South Central Pennsylvania's LGBT Community.

Mental Health Services
Primary Care
HIV/AIDS Services
Screenings and Testing
Health Education

For more information call **1.800.867.1550**
or visit **www.ALDERHEALTH.org**

Alder Health Services is dedicated to improving the health of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and transgender community and those struggling with addiction in South Central Pennsylvania. The organization provides residents of the community with: • HIV/AIDS Services and Prevention Programming • Primary Medical Care • Mental Health Counseling Services • STD Screening and Treatment • HIV Testing • Community Health Education Forums and Workshops
All HIV-related services are provided at no-cost to the participant. Primary medical care and mental health counseling services are available on a sliding fee scale. While many insurance plans are accepted, insurance is not necessary to access the services of Alder Health.

Bethlehem Passes Civil Rights Ordinance

Following a three hour public meeting June 21 Bethlehem City Council unanimously passed a non-discrimination ordinance. The next step is for Mayor John Callahan, who introduced the measure, to sign the ordinance.

Adrian Shanker, who led a coalition effort to pass the ordinance, is vice president of Pennsylvania Diversity Network. The coalition represented more than 100 business, faith, labor, arts, education, and civil rights organizations in support of the ordinance.

"We won tonight, but there were no real losers," stated Shanker. "The Bethlehem community was loud and clear that they want civil rights protections, and city council tonight listened and voted accordingly." Shanker said, "This law helps working people, it helps small business, it protects religious freedom, and most importantly, it makes discrimination illegal in the City of Bethlehem."

"I would be hard-pressed to find a vote that I support more than the one I'm voting on tonight" said councilman J. William Reynolds as he cast his vote in favor of the bill. Reynolds is not alone in his sentiments. Mike Fegley of the popular Bethlehem Restaurant, the Bethlehem Brew Works stated, "this is the ethical thing to do in Bethlehem." Before passing the ordinance, council voted to clarify the religious exemption and retain expanded powers, such as subpoena power, for the Human Relations Commission, following requests from many supporters of the ordinance.

Testimony was provided by the AARP of Pennsylvania, Equality Pennsylvania, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776, Communities in Schools, and the Indian American Association of the Lehigh Valley, among others.

Ted Martin, executive director, Equality Pennsylvania attended three of the four public meetings on the issue. Following tonight's vote, Martin said, "I can only hope that the Pennsylvania legislature will follow Bethlehem's lead and pass a fully inclusive statewide non discrimination law." Senator Pat Browne (R-Lehigh) has introduced this legislation in the Senate, and Representative Frankel introduced companion legislation in the House. The lack of a fully inclusive state law has caused 21 municipalities, including Bethlehem, to pass their own versions on the local level.

Bethlehem follows neighboring Allentown, Easton, and Reading in passing this law. Liz Bradbury led a similar effort in Allentown more than ten years ago and attended tonight's meeting. "I am so pleased that I can now recommend Bethlehem as a safe place to live or work for members of the lgbt community" said Bradbury.

Harrisburg Men's Chorus "Bright & Gay"

Photo by Angela Dicks

Harrisburg Men's Chorus last month presented "America, Bright & Gay" at Theatre Harrisburg's Krevsky Production Center with songs celebrating the many cultures and traditions that make America a vast melting pot.

Easton Mayor Signs Same Sex Partner Law

Mayor Sal Panto's stroke of the pen last month made Easton the 5th municipality in Pennsylvania to pass a law recognizing same-sex relationships.

The law, which takes effect January 1, 2012, passed unanimously through a bi-partisan city council, and no members of the public spoke against passage during either of the public hearings.

Panto stated, "It is my honor to sign this law in the same spot as the declaration of independence was read, hopefully the state legislature will pass this to give equal civil rights to everyone in Pennsylvania."

The legislation was introduced by councilperson Mike Fleck who commented "Easton needed to be a leader on civil rights, and I am glad that now we can call our great city just that." Easton follows Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Allentown in enacting this law.

Lancaster Mayor Richard Gray has also recently signed an executive order granting non-bargaining employees same-sex partner benefits.

The legislation was promoted by the Pennsylvania Diversity Network, an effort lead by vice president Adrian Shanker. "There is never a better time to pass civil rights legislation than right now" Shanker said. He also spearheads the campaign to pass a non-discrimination in Bethlehem.

The framework of the legislation was written by the Columbia Law School Gender and Sexuality Law Clinic, and is similar to the legislation passed in Allentown. Pennsylvania Diversity Network executive director Liz Bradbury said,"It is amazing that two of the five municipalities in Pennsylvania to offer same-sex relationship recognition are in the Lehigh Valley, but I don't think that this number will stay at five for very long."

Easton residents and partners Timothy Hare and Rev. Earl Ball were on hand for the signing ceremony. Hare said, "It is a great thing to be able to watch segregation end before my very eyes."

Info: www.PADiversity.org

Skin Deep: *Skin Cancer Preventable*

Now that it's summer, showing it off is part of the season. Did you know Melanoma is the most serious form of skin cancer? The cancer is characterized by the uncontrolled growth of pigment-producing cells. Melanomas may appear on the skin suddenly without warning but also can develop on an existing mole. Excessive exposure to the ultraviolet radiation of the sun is the most important preventable cause of all skin cancers, including melanoma. However, the overall incidence of melanoma continues to rise.

- 1 in 5 Americans develop some form of skin cancer during their lifetime.
- More than 1 million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year alone and it is estimated that 116,500 of them will be melanoma.
- One American dies from melanoma every 62 minutes. The World Health Organization estimates that as many as 65,161 people a year worldwide die from too much sun, mostly from malignant skin cancer.
- Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults age 25-29 and is the second most common form of cancer for adolescents and young adults 15-29 years old.
- Melanoma is increasing faster in females 15-29 years old than males in the same age group. In females 15-29 years old, the torso is the most common location for developing melanoma which may be due to high-risk tanning behaviors.
- You have a substantially increased risk of developing melanoma if you have many moles, large moles or atypical (unusual) moles.
- Your risk is increased if a blood relative (e.g., your parents, children, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles) has had melanoma.
- If you are a Caucasian with fair skin, your risk is higher than a Caucasian with olive skin.
- Redheads and blonds have a higher risk of developing melanoma. Blue or green eyes also increase your risk.
- Your chances increase significantly if you've already had a previous melanoma or if you have had either basal cell carcinoma or squamous cell carcinoma, the more common forms of skin cancer.
- People whose melanoma is detected and treated before it spreads to lymph nodes have a 5-year survival rate of 99%.

Volunteer for Black and White 2012

Want to join a mob of committed volunteers who will create the 2012 Black and White Party? Planning for next year has already started for the region's largest HIV/AIDS fundraising event. You can make a difference by joining the effort. Specifically, the nonprofit organization is looking for a few dedicated volunteers to help with clerical and administrative tasks that mostly involve internet research. You won't have to attend endless meetings or ask anyone for money but your efforts working at your own pace will make a huge difference. Interested? Contact Greg King, 717-433-0388; g.king@theblackandwhiteparty.com.

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Central to your life.

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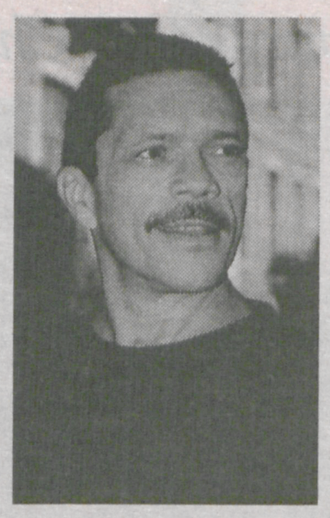
publisher's note

Pride & Institutional Change



Frank Pizzoli

As late as the 1990s not a single Fortune 1000 company offered domestic partner benefits to gay employees. Today, about 40% of the Fortune 1000 do. That's change you can believe in.

Of the 519 Fortune 1000 companies surveyed by the Human Rights Campaign, 98% prohibit unfair employment practices for gay employees, and 58% for transgender employees, according to the ACLU-LGBT Project. However, many other businesses that employ millions of Americans don't do the same. So the Kingdom hasn't come yet. And keep in mind these welcoming companies are in the private sector. They care perfectly free to decide they like dollars more than they dislike queers. It's the American Way. I'm perfectly comfortable with a business doing the right thing for the wrong reason, but do it they can. And I'm sure most of the companies that are welcoming to lgbt employees and customers have arrived at that position after thoughtful internal processes determined "open" for many reasons is better than "closed".

On the governmental side, it ain't all Will & Grace. It remains legal in 30 states, including Pennsylvania, to fire someone simply because they're gay, and in 37 states because of a person's gender identity. By its nature, government moves slower, and at times should, than business. I also do not believe that business models can solve all government problems. They are different endeavors. But here's one place where business does have a solution for government that makes sense: Get over it already. Inclusive public policies are good choices on this one.

Meanwhile, even thornier is organized religion. Other than "Welcoming" congregations, church hierarchies are not content to have their belief systems practiced by individuals who opt into their congregations. Rather, they are Hell-bent on influencing public policy on abortion, same-sex marriage, and adoption. If public policy allows for a view of the world different from theirs, organized and unwelcoming religions insist in tantrum fashion that their view of the world, and only their view, will be the Law of the Land. You will live under their rules without having chosen to be a member of their church. That needs to change. And they need to get out more.

One institutional change would be for closer scrutiny by the IRS for tax liabilities regarding churches' nonprofit status. Yes, I realize that sword cuts both ways. Many churches are as politically active in favor of lgbt civil rights as those who work against such change. The number working "against" seems intuitively higher than those working "for". Yet consider that a church isn't actively influencing public policy by simply being "Welcoming". To be Welcoming is simply an expression of their belief system, an internal decision as a congregation.

Perhaps a way to honor IRS tax-exempt status is to work institutionally church to church, keeping the activity out of the public arena. I never believed that any church should be forced to do anything it held to be against their belief system; however, they do need to be held accountable, maybe best by Welcoming churches, for the harm they do to children sitting in their pews who grow up gay. I suggest a compromise: If someone wholeheartedly believes being gay is wrong, then they should be encouraged to not be gay. It doesn't sound like a good idea for them (and we have enough closet cases all over that besotted canvas already). It is your American Right to go against what may or may not be your genetic code, although science seems to say we're hard wired. Even so, you can still go to Homo-Be-Gone Camp. We just ask that with as much enthusiasm as you hated your gayness, you tell the truth about your "de-gaying" experiences. Any good Christian would want to, right?

Schools. Now that's a big can of beans to open but it must be done. Institutional change is underway there too but in haphazard fashion. Yes, Pennsylvania does require that schools have a bullying policy in place. Problem is although schools are required to have a policy that policy isn't required to include lgbt individuals. Yes, the Pa. Dept. of Education has those materials available but schools aren't required to use them. That allows for administrators and staff to be AWOL and weasel out. And let's just face it. Some of those same people do think we're "queer" in every negative way. That's worthy institutional change that needs to happen.

Institutional change is the wave of the future. Take Pride in your accomplishments to date.

voice box

COMMUNITY CENTER
I greatly appreciated Central Voice's extensive and candidly open article on Donna Rose's departure from the LGBT Community Center Coalition. Your coverage has generated people demanding answers to questions that have gone unanswered too long.

Rev. Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

UNITY
Hi Jeff, just wanted to let you know I appreciated your comments in the latest issue of Central Voice regarding the Center. Thanks so much for the willingness to speak up and out when some of what you say might not be heard in the best way by our community. Until we come together as a community and really unify ourselves behind issues and concerns rather than personalities we will continue to struggle.

Comment sent to Jeff Clouser, Central PA Pride Festival (2008-2010)
by Barry L. Russell, aka Rainbow Rose

E-mail your thoughts to Central VOICE posops@aol.com

Is Phila. the Answer?

Submitted by Penn Future

Philadelphia has recently reached a binding agreement with the state to move forward with its ambitious Green City, Clean Waters initiative. The plan will not only help clean up local waterways like the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, but establishes Philadelphia as a national leader in how to do it right, according to environmental groups that have been advising the city on the plan, including the Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture), Clean Water Action (CWA) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

The 25-year plan will tackle the city's biggest water pollution problem – sewage overflows – by using cutting edge green infrastructure technology. Green infrastructure uses practices and designs like green roofs, increased park space, roadside plantings and porous pavement to reduce the volume of water sewage treatment facilities must process during a storm, which helps prevent them from overflowing. It also keeps runoff pollution from flowing directly into waterways when it rains.

The announcement comes as a result of a settlement reached between the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD).

"Philadelphia is setting the national model for how to clean up troubled waterways, and how to do it right," said Lawrence Levine, senior water attorney at NRDC. "This new plan is not only good news for those who love to boat, fish and play in local waterways like the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, but for all Philadelphians, whose neighborhoods will become literally greener, healthier, more pleasant places to live. Cities grappling with water pollution problems nationwide should look to Philadelphia for solutions."

"This is a great, forward-thinking approach to a Pennsylvania-wide problem," said Brian Glass, chair of PennFuture's law staff. "Communities across the state are struggling with ancient sewage systems confronted with 21st century population levels and problems. Philadelphia's visionary approach – using green roofs, rain gardens, tree trenches, and other methods to slow or prevent stormwater from entering the system, rather than simply building more underground tunnels to hold the excess water – is great for the environment, and for the economy. It will save Philadelphians real money, while making the city of brotherly love a more vibrant place to live, work, and play.

"The approval of the Green Cities, Clean Waters plan represents a major step forward in the city's use of technology to protect the environment and public health, but it will only work if the whole city government changes the way it builds and maintains public space for good," said Brady Russell, eastern Pennsylvania director of CWA. "To that end, we need neighborhood groups and environmentalists to ensure that a green system gets built across the city and a good maintenance regimen keeps it working."

PennFuture and NRDC assisted the city in developing the plan, and worked with CWA to perform a detailed independent review of the draft plan after it was first released in 2009, to identify its key strengths and recommend improvements that helped the plan gain regulatory approval.

Rep. Metcalfe - It's about Jobs

By Frank Pizzoli

Sorry Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, R-Butler, you're going to have to a better job. We're not judging you because you're different than us. We're judging you on your performance.

With a recession-comeback slowly mounting, is this the best you can do?

Re-introduce a "marriage amendment" to the state constitution defining marriage as between only a man and a woman? How many times have you introduced this amendment and lost? Ever introduce a piece of legislation that might help end the recession?

Pennsylvania's business climate has ended a three year slide, according to today's released Spring 2011 Keystone Business Climate Survey by The Lincoln Institute, a local, market-oriented think tank. Although the economy has yet to rebound from the national economic recession, today's report says recovery will begin over the coming six months. The survey also found that while sales are improving, businesses have yet to begin expanding their workforces.

After years of steady decline businesses surveyed say economic conditions in Pennsylvania have stabilized. As the report says a halt in the economy's decline is good news. Equally good news might also include Rep. Metcalfe getting on with more pressing issues than gay marriage amendments to the state constitution. Haven't you heard? Seven in 10 Pennsylvanians support ending discrimination in employment, housing and credit for their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender family members, co-workers and neighbors, according to an Equality Pennsylvania poll. Time to get with the program. Focus on real issues.

NBA Jumps on Bullying

The National Basketball Association (NBA), the Ad Council, and The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) have begun debuting a series of public service advertisements (PSA) featuring Phoenix Suns stars Grant Hill and Jared Dudley designed to address the use of anti-gay language among teens.

Nearly nine in 10 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender teens report having been verbally harassed in the past school year, and almost half have been physically harassed based on their sexual orientation, according to GLSEN's 2009 National School Climate Survey. Homophobic remarks such as "that's so gay" are the most commonly heard type of biased remarks at school, and nine in ten LGBT teens say they've heard "gay" used in negative way frequently or often.

Created pro bono by ad agency ArnoldNYC, the new PSAs communicate that using words such as "gay" in a negative way has serious consequences. In the TV spot, which was filmed in New York City and Phoenix, a teen says "gay" casually on the basketball court. Hill and Dudley call out that using "gay" when you mean something is "dumb or stupid" is not acceptable and that the teens are "better than that." New radio, print and Web PSAs similarly show how the use of anti-gay language is not acceptable on the basketball court or anywhere else. The new PSAs direct audiences to visit ThinkB4YouSpeak.com to learn how to get involved and take a pledge against using anti-LGBT language.

A 16-year NBA veteran, Grant Hill this past season became the sixth player in NBA history to average at least 13 points per game at 38 years of age or older. Suns forward Jared Dudley appeared in all 82 games for the second consecutive season, averaging a career-high 10.6 points.

"The NBA is honored to work on this important campaign in partnership with GLSEN and the Ad Council," said Kathy Behrens, NBA Executive Vice President of Social Responsibility & Player Programs. "NBA players like Grant Hill and Jared Dudley know that words are powerful and they understand the impact they can have by encouraging young fans to think before they speak."

The Ad Council is distributing the PSA to more than 1,600 TV stations nationwide this week and the ad will air in donated time. The NBA has committed to support the TV ad across their broadcast partners—ABC, ESPN, and TNT— as well as on NBA TV and NBA.com. The league will also support the campaign through their social media assets where they connect with more than 11 million fans.

"The NBA has been a tremendous partner from the moment we engaged them last year," said Eliza Byard, GLSEN Executive Director. "The NBA's support helps us start a conversation that hopefully will have a lasting impact with an incredibly engaged audience about the Think Before You Speak campaign's message of respect. Anti-LGBT language is one of the most pervasive forms of harassment in schools, and the casual use of phrases like "that's so gay" contributes to the hostile school climates that LGBT youth face across the country."

Sierra Club Seeks EPA Information

Last month the Sierra Club filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in response to the May 12th 2011 Environmental Protection Agency's request of information from Atlas Resources, Cabot Gas and Oil, Chesapeake Energy, Range Resources-Appalachia, SWEPI, and Talisman Energy on wastewater generated in connection with Marcellus Shale energy exploration, extraction, and production activities. The public needs this information to better understand whether or not dangerous wastewater is being properly treated, and what EPA and Pennsylvania need to do to protect our rivers and drinking water.

"The public clearly has a right to understand what regulatory and enforcement processes are taking place," stated Jeff Schmidt, Sierra Club's Pennsylvania director. "It is unclear whether the companies are currently complying with the directive banning Marcellus wastewater from our rivers and streams."

According to news reports, the companies complied with EPA's information request. However, the EPA declined to reveal what the companies disclosed regarding their wastewater disposal plans.

See video at: thecentralvoice.ning.com

LGBT Primary Health Care Set for July 5 Launch

Alder Health Services

After 9 months of planning and preparation, Alder Health Services' primary care program is accepting patients and will officially open on July 5, 2011. Primary care services are the latest offerings by Alder Health in the Agency's efforts to address growing health disparities among members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lgbt community and individuals who are struggling with addiction in South Central Pennsylvania.

Alder Health Services is located at 100 N. Cameron St., Ste. 301 East, Harrisburg, PA. The Agency offers a safe, open and affirmative healthcare environment with providers who are sensitive to the unique health needs of the LGBT community and individuals who have struggled with substance abuse. While many insurance plans are accepted, individuals interested in establishing a medical home at Alder Health are not required to be insured. To assure quality services are accessible to members of the community, regardless of insurance status or income, all services, including primary care and mental health services, are available on a sliding-fee scale, based on the individual's or household's income.

According to Philip K. Goropoulos, President/C.E.O. of Alder Health Services, "the primary care program is a key component of Alder Health's goal of addressing the health disparities impacting the lgbt community in our region. For many years, we have fielded calls from members of the community who did not feel safe coming out to their medical providers or felt judged by those providing their medical care. As a result, some patients did not receive appropriate medical care and treatment or simply stopped accessing care altogether. Our goal is to create a safe and welcoming environment for all our patients while providing high-quality medical care focused on the unique health needs of the lgbt community."

Recognizing the importance of Alder Health's efforts to meet the health needs of the lgbt community in South Central Pennsylvania, Highmark Blue Shield recently awarded a $25,000 grant to support this new primary care program. "Highmark Blue Shield is committed to serving the health care needs of our diverse community," said Sara Oliver Carter, Highmark Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion. "We are proud to support Alder Health's dedication to improving access to care and addressing culturally competent health care in this region."

Alder Health Services (formerly AIDS Community Alliance) provides primary care, mental health services, HIV/AIDS services and prevention, STD screenings and treatment, and health education programs to residents throughout South Central Pennsylvania.

Contact: www.AlderHealth.org; 1-800-867-1550.

AARP Opens LGBT Micro Web Site

American Association for Retired People (AARP) has launched an online home for the lgbt community. The spotlights articles on news, personal finance, relationships, travel and other topics of concern to older gay Americans, and their family and friends. The site also provides information about AARP's positions and advocacy efforts in this arena. Info: www.aarp.org/pride

Insurance Company Refuses Payment for Lesbian Couple

On Labor Day weekend 2010, Laura and Carol Ann Stutte's rural Tennessee home was burned to the ground in what the Knoxville News-Sentinel today termed "an apparent hate crime."

Six months later, the lesbian couple's $206,000 homeowners policy remains unpaid and the Springfield, Missouri, insurance company that owns the policy - American National Property and Casualty (ANPAC) - shows no signs of following through on their obligations. The company is a subsidiary of the larger insurance conglomerate American National Insurance Company (Nasdaq: ANAT), with a net income in 2010 of over $35 billion.

The arson fire was preceded by months of death threats from a neighbor and as the couple's "dream home" went up in smoke, an adjacent, detached garage stood with the word "QUEERS" spray-painted on the side in giant black letters. Adding insult to injury, the couple now not only has to deal with the criminal investigation into the case but also an insurance claim that remains filed, but has gone unpaid.

While the couple worked to find a temporary place to live, they filed a claim with their insurance company – ANPAC, based in Galveston, Texas. To date, the carrier refuses to pay out their homeowners policy and refuses to pay the couple's living expenses in full, as detailed in a policy rider - even though the insurance company acknowledges that the couple continues to pay the premiums for their policy.

When questioned by the Knoxville News Sentinel, ANPAC's attorney, Mark Kinsman, refused comment stating that he's "not authorized to discuss the issue."

The couple has been pressuring the company, privately and publicly, to honor their policy while the local community has chipped in to help the couple make ends meet and to provide a new insulin pump for their diabetic daughter. Now living in hiding for fear of their neighbor finding them and killing the couple, as threatened, they have created an online petition on Change.org asking the insurance company to pay the claim. The petition has garnered over 27,000 signatures from across the country.

Petition: http://www.change.org/petitions/demand-insurance-company-pay-lesbian-arson-victims.

Margaret Held, the couple's lawyer, said, "Not only have my clients been injured by the woman who appears to have terrorized them and burned down their house, they are now being injured by the insurance company that refuses to pay the claim and by the criminal investigators who refuse to share any information regarding their findings with the victims of the crime. Our legal process should work a lot better than this."

US Labor Department Protects Trans Workers

Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF) recently hailed United States Department of Labor's announcement that it has taken steps to protect its transgender workers from employment discrimination. The department added gender identity as a protected category in its equal employment opportunity statement.

The policy applies to all hiring, promotion and disciplinary practices for the approximately 17,000 employees of the department.

"Whether in private or public employment, what matters is not who you are, but how you do your job," said TLDEF executive director Michael Silverman. "The Department of Labor now joins the many public and private employers that have recognized that discrimination is bad business. We applaud Labor Secretary Hilda Solis for her leadership on this issue."

Transgender people face tremendous discrimination in the workplace. In a recent survey, 47% of transgender people reported being fired, or denied a job or promotion, just because of who they are. In a recent case, TLDEF filed a lawsuit on behalf of a transgender man who was fired from a male-only job solely because he is transgender.

"Employers like the Department of Labor set an example for other employers to follow. It is a great day when diversity is embraced and discrimination is rejected in the workplace," added Silverman.

Lancaster events

Who Goes Bare?
Runs to 7/30/2011
Rainbow Dinner Theatre
Paradise, PA

Witness Movie Covered Bridge Tours
Runs to 10/29/2011
Departs Amish Experience Theater
Bird in Hand, PA

What's Bugging Belva? Exhibit at the North Museum
Runs to 9/25/2011
North Museum of Natural History and Science
Lancaster, PA

Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons

Messiah Misses Out

Of all the issues we discuss in my lgbt class at Harrisburg Area Community College, religion always causes the most consternation among students. I use the word advisedly - it means "amazement or dismay that throws one into confusion."

Yes, discussions of sexuality and gender cause confusion, but amazement and dismay do sum up the reactions of many to how religion has been such a powerful force in oppressing lgbtq people. And I'm talking about both gay and straight students here, Christian and non-Christian. (I'm going to focus on Christianity, because that is the dominant faith tradition of students in these classes.)

Class discussions reveal a lot about how people see and practice their faith; among other things, I often am struck by what little students know of the Bible and how to read it. This means that I have to provide a great deal of background before we can even get started on the Biblical passages cited by those who believe homosexuality is a sin.

The recent conflict at Messiah College over its policies regarding lgbtq students provides a good basis for yet another look at what true equality means for communities locally and across the country. It also helps us understand why what the Bible says is so problematic.

Messiah is doing its best to say that it welcomes all students, and yet the covenant new students sign specifically lists homosexual behavior as something the college will not tolerate. Yes, Messiah wants no student sex - heterosexual or homosexual - because its reading of the Bible is that God prohibits all sex outside of marriage. So why single out homosexual conduct?

Messiah's leaders cite scriptural authority when they talk about the college's faith tradition being very important in these matters. I think the word "tradition" is key here. I believe in tradition; I really do. But when tradition becomes a hindrance to knowledge and understanding, there is a problem. American traditions have served us well over the years, helping us to continue be an ever-renewing society. Think about it - revolutionary change is a major American tradition; that's what July 4 is all about, isn't it?

Christian faith traditions have wrestled with change over the centuries, and they will continue to do so. And an educational institution like Messiah, a "Christian college," needs to be careful in how it handles revolutionary social change. Moving too fast can just upset too many folks - especially alumni, who donate lots of money to the school!

At the same time, Messiah has a strong tradition of social justice, so why is it so slow to advocate social justice for the lgbtq community?

My problem with Messiah is that its current stand on homosexuality is not an educated one. The argument its leaders - faculty, administrators, trustees - have posed about faith and tradition has become an example of the dark side of tradition, the side that brings us the expression "hidebound," usually used to describe one who cannot break out of a restricting and confining practice.

I graduated from a college like Messiah, and I know something about "Christian education." I learned a lot at Taylor University and I had some fine professors. At the same time, I had too many professors who did not teach me about the search for truth and understanding, because they were too caught up in maintaining Taylor's official understanding of its faith tradition.

So here's the way I see it. In order for Messiah to be a truly welcoming college, certain things have to happen. First, the college needs to become better educated about the issues involved. This means looking at the Bible in a different way from what seems to be the current approach. For example, tell students that the word "homosexual" is not in the Bible, or at least not in the original Greek and Hebrew. Tell them there was no understanding of gay people having committed loving relationships during the times the various books of the Bible were written.

Next, follow the call of its social-justice tradition. No true Christian today believes the Bible condones slavery, for example. After all, good God-fearing folks in say, 1870 or 1950 believed it did. And while we're at it, how about helping students understand why it is that most Christians today believe it is OK for Christians to divorce. While Jesus said nothing about lgbtq relationships, he certainly spoke strongly against divorce.

Teach your students well, Messiah! Reach out to alumni! Help them understand that you cannot make lgbtq students feel welcome on campus when you say they can't be who they are. Oh, you're welcome, but who you are is just not acceptable when it comes to your sexual orientation. I ask you is this an educated position? Is this truly what Christian education is all about?

Trum Simmons is senior professor of English at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) and adviser of The Fourth Estate, the Harrisburg campus student newspaper. He also advises HACC Allies, the LGBTQA student organization.

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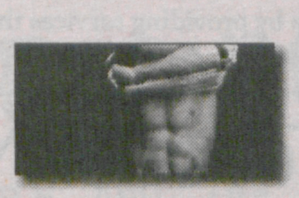

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LGBT community center coalition

Center Programs Busy All Summer

By Louie Marven
Director of Education & Youth Services
LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA

Although summer is in full swing, and students and school staff across the region are enjoying a well-deserved break from the demands of the academic year, Common Roads programs continue to operate all summer long. Our weekly meetings in Harrisburg and Lancaster are going strong, and this summer we welcome Trina Brandon from Harrisburg Area Community College and Bradley Giuranna from Millersville University as summer interns coordinating those programs.

K-12 professionals are also on the center's radar, as we welcome school staff members to our new summer institute, "Understanding and Supporting LGBT Students". Through a partnership with Temple University Harrisburg, attendees will be able to earn up to 30 social work or Act 48 continuing education credit hours by participating in the institute, which will take place at Temple's downtown Harrisburg campus from July 11-15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. While the center provides education and training to school staff throughout the academic calendar, this opportunity will help us to expand those services into the summer.

Topics at the summer institute will include gender and sexuality 101, gender bullying as sexual violence, legal issues, student rights, gay-straight alliances and advocacy, lgbtq-inclusive curriculum, classroom management techniques, and working with youth in the child welfare system. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from local gay-straight alliance advisers and, most importantly, from lgbtq youth who are willing to share about their experiences in schools—both positive and negative—and how staff played a part in creating those experiences.

Finally, the Central PA LGBT Aging Network (CPLAN) group invites you to visit the center's table at Pride Festival of Central PA on July 30. CPLAN will offer space at Pride for lgbt older adults and allies to sit and listen to Oldies while mingling with committee members, building community, and filling out a community interest survey. Stay tuned for information from CPLAN on a series of local screenings in October of the documentary Gen Silent, from award-winning director and documentary filmmaker Stu Maddux. The film asks six lgbt seniors if they will hide their identities to survive, and, unlike any previous lgbt film about aging, startlingly discovers how oppression in the years before Stonewall now leaves many elders afraid and dangerously isolated.

Read more about Common Roads youth programs, professional staff training, CPLAN developments, and more at www.centralpalgbtcenter.org. The mission of the LGBT Community Center Coalition is to create common ground for the lgbt community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through spiritual, educational and cultural activities that foster wholeness.

Maryland Teacher Named Educator of the Year

Rich Espey

Rich Espey, of Park Middle School, was recently recognized for making schools safer for lgbt students.

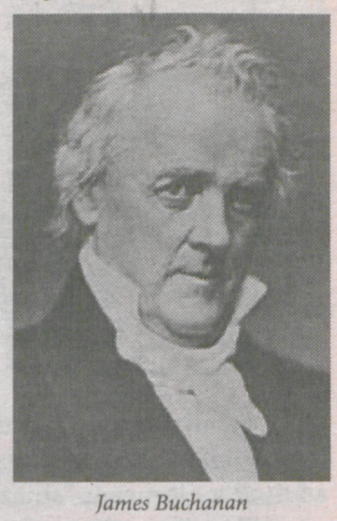
GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) selected him as Maryland's 2011 GLSEN Educator of the Year. Annually the award cites a remarkable educator who has demonstrated a commitment to the mission of ensuring safe schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Nearly 100 educators were nominated from around the country.

Espey has taught middle school science for 23 years and is currently teaching 8th graders at the Park School of Baltimore. In 2005, he assumed sponsorship of Park's Middle School GSA; projects under his guidance include a student-created video addressing homophobic language at school, various assembly programs for GLSEN's Day of Silence; and a two-week professional development program that brought together twelve teachers from throughout the school to gather and explore resources for best practices in gender and sexuality diversity education. As a result of his work, dozens of the school's teachers have addressed sexual orientation in their curricula in thoughtful, age-appropriate ways.

"GLSEN and Sodexo are honored to recognize Rich Espey, a school leader who has dedicated his teaching career to creating environments where all students are valued and respected, as the 2011 GLSEN Educator of the Year," said GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard. "As someone who engages both youth and adults in making a safer community, Rich Espey embodies all the characteristics we look for in a visionary leader."

It's a Mixed Up, Shook Up World!

From David Mixner



James Buchanan

Often in speeches, I express hope that someday in the near future that there will be an openly lgbt President sitting in the White House. Not sure it will happen in my lifetime but I believe it with all my heart. Historians have been hesitant to deal with the sexual orientation of anybody in history let alone our former Presidents. Somehow to engage in that discussion they believe it will lessen their ability to be taken as serious scholars.

Just look at the ruckus caused by the speculation about our beloved 16th President Abe Lincoln. The mere suggestion that honest Abe might be bisexual or homosexual sends them into spasms of anguish. There is no question that revelations are increasing to suggest that it is a real possibility. Lincoln's intense relationship with Joshua Speed or his male companion in the White House, Captain David Derickson raise real questions. Historians dismiss the Speed issue by simply saying all men in the frontier days shared beds. (God, I was born in the wrong century!). However the White House and Lincoln's summer retreat at the Soldiers Home had plenty of beds and bedrooms. The debate will go on and people will continue to act shocked about the question of Lincoln's sexuality as if it were true it would make him a less person.

That leaves us with President James Buchanan, the only "bachelor President." Just our luck since historians have constantly voted him the worst President in history, just ahead of George W. Bush. Buchanan refused to tackle slavery, had this idyllic image of the South and by inaction made the Civil War inevitable. Most of us would be simply appalled by his policies and decisions.

However, only people with their heads stuck in the sand would deny that Buchanan was gay. The weak President had a longtime relationship with Senator William Rufus King who happened also to be the nation's only 'bachelor Vice-President!' For over 16 years they shared the same house, wrote love letters and there was constant underground buzz swirling around Washington concerning the relationship. Former President Andrew Jackson would call King "Aunt Fancy" and Buchanan "Miss Nancy." Often Buchanan's political enemies would refer to King as Buchanan's wife.

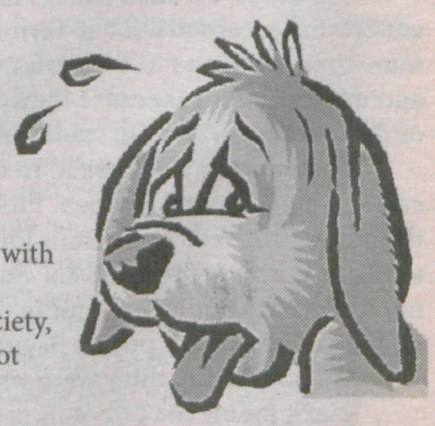
In Presidential History Geeks, they write:

In 1844, President Polk appointed King as Ambassador to France. King wrote Buchanan telling him "I hope you will find no one to replace me in affection." Buchanan later wrote to a female friend, a Mrs. Roosevelt, that "I am now solitary and alone having no companion in the house with me. I have gone wooing to several gentlemen but have not succeeded with any of them. I feel that it is not good for man to be alone, and I should not be astonished to find myself married to some old maid who can nurse me when I am sick, provide good dinners for me when I am well, and not expect from me any very ardent or romantic affection."

King also wrote with sadness of his separation from Buchanan. In a letter to Buchanan in 1844, King wrote "I am selfish enough to hope you will not be able to procure an associate who will cause you to feel no regret at our separation. For myself, I shall always feel lonely in the midst of Paris, for here I shall have no Friend with whom I can commune as with my own thoughts."

Shocked by the possibility of Lincoln's relationships with men, historians have claimed that it is the LGBT community's desperate desire to have a place in history that impels them to make the assertions about Honest Abe. Surely they can't make the same assertion about Buchanan since who really would want him, given his policies!

Hot Weather Pet Tips



Summertime is a great time of year to get outside with your pet, but it's also a time to keep an eye out for heat-related issues. Here are a few tips from the Humane society, Harrisburg, to help keep your pets healthy during the hot summer months.

- Just as you protect your children, you should never leave your pet in a parked car. Your car can reach more than 140 degrees during the warmer months.
- Have fresh, clean water available at all times.
- Provide shelter from the sun. Keep in mind that shaded areas of your yard will change throughout the day.
- Exercise your pets during the cooler parts of the day. Early in the morning or after dusk is best on hot days.
- Keep your pets well-groomed. If you have a longhaired dog, help it beat the heat with a haircut, or brush your pet to help improve airflow to the skin.
- Keep your pet away from coolants and lawn chemicals that pets may be attracted to during hot days.
- Keep an eye out for heat-related health problems. Signs of overheating are excessive painting, lethargic, behavioral changes or showing signs of stress. If your pet shows any of these symptoms its important to contact your veterinarian.

A Walk, A Run and A Race ...

Alder Health Services (formerly AIDS Community Alliance) brought the community together for a 5K Run, an AIDS Walk, and a Drag Race.

Pa. Student Equality Coalition Forms

The establishment of the Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition (PSEC) recently launched efforts as a social justice organization for lgbtq youth. It is thought to be the first such statewide youth-led coalition in the nation. The organization is the volunteer work of Jason Landau Goodman. The budding organization recently opened offices in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia. Headquarters are expected to be located in Montgomery County.

Contact: Jason Landau Goodman, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition, jgoodman@pennsec.org, www.pennsec.org

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XOXO

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~ Paper Lion Gallery Hosts Chamber ~

Lemoyne's Paper Lion Gallery recently hosted the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of commerce.
Photos by Posh Studio.

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE

The Wizard of Oz
July 14 - August 20

Songs you grew up with, characters you've grown to love. Travel down the yellow brick road with Dorothy, Toto, Tin Man, Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion as they discover friendship, Munchkins, Glenda the good witch and the wicked witch of the West and that "There's No Place Like Home". Hear songs like Over the Rainbow, Follow the Yellow Brick Road, Ding Dong the Witch Is Dead and If I Only Had a Brain. Relive the magic and timeless music and follow our friends over the rainbow to the land of Oz.
Tickets: 717-898-1900

STRAND-CAPITAL

CapLive: Marc Broussard
July 21, 8 p.m.
Capitol Theatre

Special guests: Sarah & Christian Dugas
This singer/songwriter's style is best described as "Bayou Soul," a mix of funk, swampy blues, old school R&B, rock and pop paired with distinct Southern roots. He just released a brand new self-titled CD, his fifth album, and has charted twice on Hot Adult Top 40 Tracks.

FULTON THEATRE

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Book by Jeremy Sams
Music, lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
Based on Ian Fleming novel
June 8 - July 10, 2011

Cabaret Series
PRiMA Theatre Company
The Music of Jason Robert Brown
August 20
Tickets: http://www.thefulton.org/shows/

HERSHEY THEATRE

Peter Pan
August 24 - 28
Tony Award nominee Cathy Rigby takes flight in an all new production of Peter Pan! Discover the magic all over again of this two time Emmy award winning and two time Tony award nominated production. The New York Times says "Rigby still carries off the flights, fights and acrobatics that make Peter Pan audiences mesmerized." Peter Pan is filled with timeless magical moments and a captivating hook. The legend you thought you know, is now the adventure you never dreamed possible… Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan!
Tickets: 717-534-3405
1-800-745-3000
HersheyTheatre.com

WHITAKER CENTER

John Edward Group
August 19, 7 p.m.
Sunoco Performance Theater
Tickets $125

Internationally acclaimed psychic medium John Edward has captivated audiences worldwide. Since the age of 15, John has connected countless families – from A-list celebrities to housewives – with those they have loved and lost. After 25 years, the message of his work remains unchanged and infinitely simple: communicate, appreciate and validate. Reading not guaranteed with admission.
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RENT
July 29 – Aug. 14

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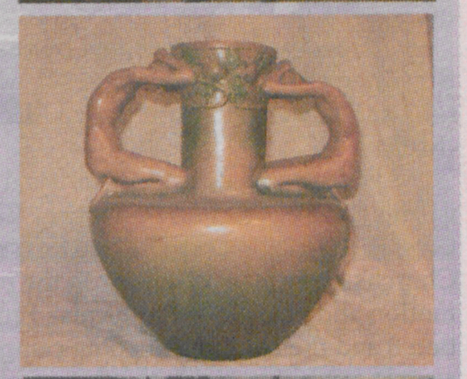

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Saturday, August 6 • 5-8 pm
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Visit www.artassoccofhbg.com for Class Schedule, Soiree Reservations, Gallery Walk Map

SCULPTURES BY THOMAS BICHKO, OILS BY DOT BUNN & VYACHESLAV SHEVCHENKO
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Opening Reception
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5-8 pm

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CULTURAL ENRICHMENT FUND

"8: The Mormon Proposition" Best Doc

Red Flag Releasing and WolfeVideo.com announced recently that "8: THE MORMON PROPOSITION" won Best Documentary from GLAAD Media Awards (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation).

The award was accepted by the film's narrator, Academy Award© -winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black (Milk)

Written and directed by journalist and former Mormon missionary Reed Cowan, the movie exposes the Mormon Church's historic involvement in the promotion and passage of California's Proposition 8 and the religion's ongoing campaign against gay rights, rights that are granted to all citizens. The film was produced by Cowan, Steven Greenstreet, Chris Volz and Emily Pearson for David V. Goliath Productions. Cowan and Bruce Bastian served as executive producers. The film was co-directed by Greenstreet.

"This award belongs to the brave men and women who have fought for marriage equality for decades. And especially those who were courageous enough to tell their stories to the international audience the film continues to reach. GLAAD is about protecting and celebrating the stories of our community, and our team is honored to be a part of a proud GLAAD awards legacy," said Cowan.

"What is meaningful about "8" being recognized by GLADD is that it

acknowledges those who have fought hard for rights, basic civil rights, and that most people don't know gay people don't have. We are proud that the film helped to emboldened the lgbt community to stand firm against religious bigotry," adds Cowan. "Since the film was released, there has been a huge movement towards calling out organizations who use the pulpit to deny the civil rights of lgbt people. I do believe the film can be credited with putting religious organizations with 501c3 status on notice - that their tax-free privileges are indeed at risk if the lines between church and state are blurred."

"8"recorded and made a matter of record what Mormons did with their allies to deny lgbt citizens their rights. Not only did the movie prompt a dialogue and movement inside the Mormon church between Mormons and the gay community, since the film's release the Mormon Church was put on a list of organizations officially at risk of losing their tax exempt status. And they were cited and fined.

Fracking: "Shale isn't the only thing getting fracture"

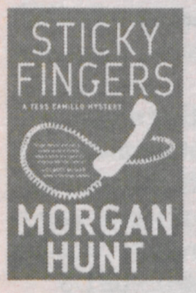
The only thing deeper than Marcellus Shale drilling is the political issues raised. A June 7 anti-drilling rally in the state capitol drew hundreds of people. Fracking is a process of extracting natural gas from hardened shale rock thousands of feet under ground by using explosives, chemicals, sand and water at high pressure. Gas can be extracted when the shale is fractured.

"The shale isn't the only thing that is getting fractured," says Ben Ketchum, a member of the mid-state's Gas Truth coalition. He cites a recent New York Times series claiming that water which returns to the surface after fracking contains heavy metals, toxic salt levels, and dangerous radiation levels. Meanwhile, a June Quinnipiac University poll released June 14 reports state voters say economic benefits outweigh environmental concerns by 63% to 30%. Respondents also support taxing companies 69% to 24% with 69% of Republicans supporting a tax.

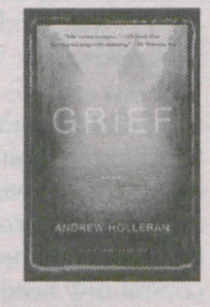
book review

Time flies, here's 5 you may have missed

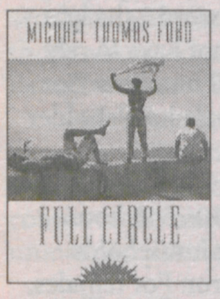
By Lewis Maurer
Dauphin County Library System



STICKY FINGERS: A TESS CAMILLO MYSTERY
by Morgan Hunt
Shortly after amateur sleuth Tess Camillo discovers a rattlesnake under the bed of her San Diego home, another lesbian is killed with a snake. Police worry that they have a herpetophile serial killer on their hands. Neither Tess nor the police make much progress until a psychic contacts Tess, offering clues.

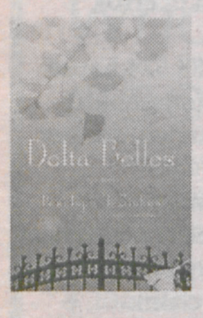


GRIEF
by Andrew Holleran
An understated, eloquent novel by Holleran (Dancer from the Dance) captures the pain of a generation of gay men who have survived the AIDS epidemic and reached middle age yearning for fidelity, tenderness and intimacy. Until its terse, piercing conclusion, Holleran's elegiac narrative possesses its power in the unsaid.



FULL CIRCLE
by Michael Thomas Ford
History professor Ned Brummel is living happily with his partner of twelve years in small-town Maine when he receives a phone call from his estranged friend…as Ned boards a plane to Chicago on his way to his friend's bedside, he embarks on a another journey into memory, examining the major events and small moments that have shaped his world and his relationships with two very different, very important men.

GROWN FOLKS BUSINESS
by Victoria Christopher Murray
For 17 years, Sheridan and Quentin seemed to have the perfect marriage. Now he is leaving her for another man. Her life shattered, Sheridan wonders how she can help their two children live through this crisis, while keeping her own emotional turmoil under control.



DELTA BELLES
by Penelope J. Stokes
The Delta Belles are reunited to perform at their 25-year college reunion. Delta's pastor husband was murdered, is angry with God, twin sisters, Lacy and Lauren haven't spoken in years, and Rae Dawn has had overwhelming losses.

Community Center Summer Teacher Institute, July 11-15

The LGBT Community Center is growing their professional training program by offering a summer institute for K-12 professionals called "Understanding & Supporting LGBTQ Students" July 11-15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The week-long program for K-12 professionals covers effectively supporting lgbtq students, the difference between gender and sexuality 101, advocacy and gay-straight alliances, curriculum development and classroom management. The institute also covers legal issues, child welfare system, and gender bullying as sexual violence.

Training host Temple University Harrisburg will offer Continuing Education Social Work and Act 48 Professional Development Credits. Up to 30 are available. Registration is $250.

Info and registration: http://www.mycommunityevents.com/common/eventDetail.aspx?id=10149&val=1.

Dutch Apple Theatre – Lions, Tigers and Bears

"Lions, tigers, and bears, Oh my!" Take the journey this summer through crabby forests and beautiful fields of poppies to the Emerald City with Dorothy, Toto, Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion as the movie musical, "The Wizard of OZ," comes to life on the Dutch Apple stage July 14- August 20.

Come laugh and sing along to some of your favorite songs of Over the Rainbow, If I Only Had a Heart, Follow the Yellow Brick Road, and Ding, Dong the Witch is Dead. This summer, Dutch Apple is touching hearts form ages three to 93 with a favorite everyone loves, but Beware of the wicked witch, for you might just hear her say "I'll get you my pretty and your little dog too!"

The American classic movie musical comes to life at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre with The Wizard of Oz running July 14- August 20.

Then "I Love a Piano" opens August 25- October 1. It's a salute to Irving Berlin's best music including 60 songs like Puttin' on the Ritz, There's No Business Like Show Business, Easter Parade, Blue Skies, Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better, Steppin' Out With My Baby, God Bless America and many more.

Dutch Apple Theatre offers "I Love a Piano" Aug. 25 – Oct. 1, a salute to Irving Berlin's music including 60 songs.

Tickets: Reservations or online at DutchApple.com; 717-898-1900. Family pricing is available for the summer with kids ages 3-12 just $18. Ages 13-18 is just $22 for dinner and show.

Alder Health Services

WINE Tour

Bus Departs from Alder Health Services at 9:30AM and Returns at 7PM.

Ticket: $85 *(General Ticket),*

$100 Vintner Ticket
(includes listing in the event program)

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Manatawny Creek Winery,
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TICKET INCLUDES:
Luxury Bus Transportation, Snacks, All Wine Tastings, and A Boxed Lunch.

More Information visit
www.alderhealth.org/winetour
or call **1-800-867-1550**

SAT 9/17

ISSUE ANALYSIS: COUNT ME IN!

Continued from page one

Counting same-sex couples is harder than it sounds, according to Gates.

How a respondent perceives or identifies themselves is at the center of interpreting the data's accuracy. Gates explains that same-sex couples are identified in households where Person 1 describes his or her relationship with another adult of the same sex as either a "husband/wife" or "unmarried partner". If respondents don't answer, the bell doesn't ring. That means there are at least two reasons figures may be an undercount. It is possible that some same-sex couples are unwilling to identify themselves due to concerns about confidentiality, Gates clarified. Given stigma and discrimination, they consider disclosure too risky on a government survey. Instead, they may choose to call themselves roommates or unrelated adults.

A second reason for an undercount is that only couples where one partner is Person 1 can be identified on the form since identification relies upon knowing the relationship between Person 1 and others in the household. For example, a younger couple residing in the home of a parent would not be identified if one of the parents was Person 1 in the household.

Gates conducted a survey of same-sex couples just after Census 2010 and found that about 15% either identified themselves as something other than spouses or unmarried partners or were in a household where neither partner was Person 1.

Another concern about accuracy of same-sex couple data is the possibility that a small portion of different-sex couples miscode a spouse's or unmarried partner's sex and are incorrectly counted as same-sex couples. Since there are more than 100 different-sex couples for every same-sex couple, Gates says, even a very small amount of errors among different-sex couples result in relatively large numbers of misidentified same-sex couples. Gates and his colleagues estimate between 15 and 20% of identified same-sex couples may, in fact, be miscoded different-sex couples.

PREVIEW: As a preview, Gates shared with Central Voice his estimates based on the 2009 American Community Survey (conducted by the US Census Bureau), which is the most recent data available. Estimates are the US lgb population numbers more than 8 million or 3.5% of the adult population. There are about 700,000 transgender individuals suggesting an approximate total of 9 million, roughly New Jersey's population. MomsBlogRising cites that there are same-sex couples live in almost every county across the US, and more than one million of these couples are raising children.

Nuance is the foundation of demographic statistics.

"There's lots of different ways to ask questions," Gates said. He means that no single statistical answer is definitive. "A man may answer that he's had sex with another man within the last five years, or a woman may give a similar answer, but that's not the same as one 'identifying' as gay or lesbian," he clarifies.

For better or worse, county data based on Gates research yields some results on same-sex couples in the region. These indirect estimates make it imperative that the US Census evolve over time statistically sound methods of asking people about their sexual orientation, gender identity, and the nature of their relationships. Just ask us already. And keep asking.

Cumberland County

Gates' multiple survey analysis estimates that in Cumberland County there are 91,837 households, plus or minus 2,416, with an estimated 372 reporting as male unmarried-partner households (that's a male householder and male partner), adjusted to +/-358 for margin of error. In statistical terms, that means there's a 95% chance that the real number of male same-sex couples is somewhere between 14 and 730. In other words, the lgbt community needs a consistent way to be counted in a census and should not have to rely on cross-walking several studies to make perilous guesses about our actual numbers. For females, the estimates are 113 unmarried-partner households (that's a female householder and female partner), adjusted to 148 for margin of error.

Dauphin County

The census-run survey estimates that in Dauphin County there are 106,540 households, plus or minus 2,076, with 524 reporting as male unmarried-partner households (male householder and male partner), adjusted to +/-302 for margin of error. For females, the estimates are 529 unmarried-partner households (female householder and female partner), adjusted to 361 for margin of error.

York County

The census-run survey estimates that in York County there are 165,368 households, plus or minus 2,328, with 45 reporting as male unmarried-partner households, adjusted to 75 for margin of error. For females, the estimates are 228 unmarried-partner households (that's a female householder and female partner), adjusted to 187 for margin of error.

Lancaster County

The census-run survey estimates that in Lancaster County there are 188,574 households, plus or minus 2,219, with 509 reporting as male unmarried-partner households, adjusted to 305 for margin of error. For females, the estimates are 630 unmarried-partner households, adjusted to 357 for margin of error.

Regardless of what final numbers are – whether based on Gates' summary of six surveys and/or this summer's release of same-sex marriage data - they will be controversial for all parties involved. Historically, the claim has been 1 in 10 people are gay, although the movement itself never had, nor did anyone else, a reliable way to make that claim.

"1 in 10" has been the rallying call since the gay movement's early years. Civil rights campaigns, even publications and web sites named as such, have tagged their efforts to the 10% guestimate. "Pushback from others when I released the data involved them telling me the institute's numbers, at 3.8%, must be an undercount," Gates said.

"Labels have meaning, especially labels and numbers that come from census data," Gates said, noting that the value of equal civil rights for gay people does not diminish if former estimates based on guesses are corrected up or down over time based on credible census data.

Community Center

Continued from page one

ated people demanding answers to questions that have gone unanswered too long."

Barry L. Russell, aka Rainbow Rose, shared comments he emailed to Jeff Clouser, Central PA Pride Festival chair (2008-2010), after Clouser stepped up to the plate and opened a dialogue with center board president Elizabeth "Bebe" Mullaugh. Russell said he appreciated Clouser's "comments in the latest issue of Central Voice" regarding the center. He noted Clouser's "willingness to speak up and out when some of what you say might not be heard in the best way by our community."

Central Voice checked in with Mullaugh.

Calling the hire a "stumble," Mullaugh said the failed bid "had the effect of keenly focusing the board on the work that the center, and Common Roads before it, has done for so long." She said the organization "took stock of our programs," realizing that, in spite of low level of public awareness of what the center actually does, they may have become the region's premier provider for training of educational staff and social service providers on how to create safe spaces particularly for gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, and questioning youth.

The center's growing work with educational and human service organizations creates what Mullaugh calls a "terrific lever effect," meaning that when youth express who they are, teachers, parents, school administrators and the general public become embracing of diversity. "We're really proud of …our Common Roads 'kids,' [some of whom] have grown up to become leaders."

Director of education and youth programs Louie Marven has successfully evolved a Friday night "safe space night " into a full-fledged annual Gay Straight Alliance Summit set to expand to two days in 2012. The event offers training for high school and college youth, teachers and staff.

For the first time, the center is offering a week-long, continuing education program for K-12 professionals allowing lgbtq youth to help with the sessions.

Mullaugh notes that the organization's historical success with its youth-oriented Common Roads program "has proved highly effective for structuring the center's new programs for older lgbt adults," called CPLAN (Central PA LGBT Aging Network), which is expected to be rolled out this summer.

"So our crisis, if that's what it was, afforded the center an opportunity to really think hard about what we do well and what support the board needed to expand that success," Mullaugh said. The center has begun working on ways "to better engage the community".

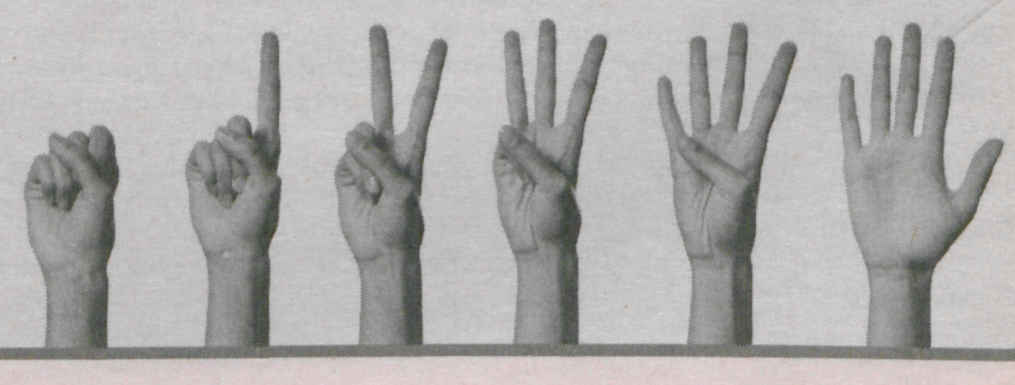
In previous interviews Mullaugh has acknowledged that the center lacks an ongoing dialogue with its constituency. They do lots of good work that no one knows about. "We leverage a paid staff of one, a very modest budget, and dedicated volunteers and interns who touch hundreds of lives…through our programming," referring to weekly safe space and youth leadership programs, educational and human services professional training or CPLAN for older lgbt individuals.

"We want to engage the community," Mullaugh said.

How Good is 2010 Census Count?

Mail Participation Rate: 72% sent back forms, same as 2000
Follow-up Counts: 6 attempts to contact 47 million non-responsive households
Overall Count Rate: Some usable data from 99.62% of households, 99.45% in 2000

Source: US Census Bureau



No Gay-Specific Household Info in Census

As readers anxiously await release of US Census data on same-sex households, The Williams Institute is poised to release state-level data on same-sex couples as it becomes available. Last May the US Census Bureau began the process of releasing its "Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics" for individual states.

Historically, data on same-sex couples have been a critical resource for informing the many national, state, and local debates about lesbian and gay rights. The Q&A below summarizes the timetable for releases and explains Census procedures regarding same-sex couple data.

Q: Is it possible to identify same-sex couples in the Census 2010 data that the Census Bureau has begun began releasing?

A: No. These detailed profiles do not include specific information about same-sex couple households. Same-sex couples are included within the "unmarried partner" households.

These households include both different-sex and same-sex couples who designated one partner as an "unmarried partner" along with same-sex couples who designated one partner as a "husband" or "wife".

Q: When will Census 2010 data about same-sex couples be released?

A: In June 2011, the first release of data specifically about same-sex couples will begin with the weekly releases of the "Summary File 1" data (data from several states are distributed each week). These data will include official tabulations of same-sex male and female couples and information about the presence of children in their homes at a variety of geographic levels (e.g., state, county, and Census tract). The SF-1 data will not include separate information about same-sex couples who designated themselves as spouses and those who used unmarried partner. These groups are combined in these tables. The Williams Institute will publish research briefs on each state as these data are released.

Q: When will Census 2010 data about same-sex spouses be released?

A: Later in the year, the bureau will release tabulations on its American FactFinder website and a technical note about same-sex couples that will include national and state counts of the number of same-sex couples who designated themselves as spouses versus unmarried partners.

The Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy advances law and public policy through rigorous, independent research and scholarship, and disseminates its work through a variety of education programs and media to judges, legislators, lawyers, other policy makers, and the public. Info: www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute

What is Known or Estimated about LGBT Community

1. 9 million LGBT people live in the U.S., or 3.8 % of the adult population

2. Among adults who identify as LGB, bisexuals comprise a slight majority (1.8% compared to 1.7% who identify as lesbian or gay).

3. Women are substantially more likely than men to identify as bisexual.

4. Estimates of those who report any lifetime same-sex sexual behavior and any same-sex sexual attraction are substantially higher than estimates of those who identify as LGB.

5. An estimated 19 million Americans (8.2%) report that they have engaged in same-sex sexual behavior and nearly 25.6 million Americans (11%) acknowledge at least some same-sex sexual attraction.

6. LGBT people are racially, ethnically, and geographically diverse: 1 in 4 LGBT people are people of color, and same-sex couples identified themselves on the Census in 99% of U.S. counties

7. A substantial percentage of LGBT people are raising children: 1 in 5 same-sex couples and 6% of children in foster care are being raised by LGB people

8. LGB people are serving in the Armed Forces: 71,000 are currently serving and there are over 1 million LGB veterans in the U.S.

9. 70,000 same-sex couples have gotten married in the U.S.; another 90,000 have entered civil unions and domestic partnerships

10. The annual divorce rate for same-sex couples and different-sex married couples is similar - about 2% 1

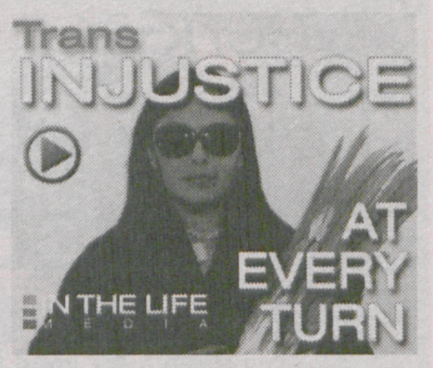
11. LGBT people are not more affluent. Gay men earn 10 to 23% less, on average, than heterosexual men. Children of same-sex couples are twice as likely to live in poverty.

12. Rates of hate crimes and employment discrimination against LGBT people are similar or higher than those for other protected groups. Until the Williams Institute, no one analyzed this data on a per capita basis, taking into account the size of the LGBT population.

13. Don't Ask, Don't Tell cost taxpayers as much as $500 million during the length of the policy.

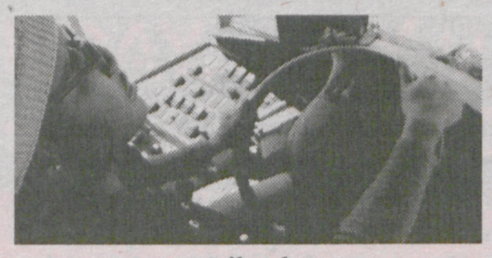
14. If all 50 states and the federal government recognized marriage for same-sex couples, the federal budget would benefit by over $1 billion each year.

Transgender Discrimination Study Released



In The Life Media released a web video, produced with generous support from The Calamus Foundation, featuring the personal stories of two transgender women, Ja'briel and Michelle, highlighting the findings of the first comprehensive transgender discrimination study completed by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

"I went to school and earned a degree, but because of discrimination I'm limited in my employment options, and so it's been very troubling to know that this is an extra burden on me financially and in other ways," Ja'briel. The National Transgender Discrimination Survey found that respondents experience unemployment at twice the rate of the general population. Ja'briel shares her story from Hinesville, Georgia.



Ja'briel

"While we were inside the office he reached out and he grabbed, he touched my breast. At that point I didn't think there was anything that I could do and I didn't," Michelle. According to the Survey, over a quarter of respondents reported that they had lost their job due to being transgender or gender non-coforming and half were harassed. Michelle shares her story from Los Angeles, California.

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey concludes with a call to action, "to make a significant difference between the current climate of discrimination and violence and a world of freedom and equality." In The Life Media joins the efforts by sharing the personal stories of two transgender women who model determination, resourcefulness and perseverance.

Watch Injustice at Every Turn -
http://www.itlmedia.org/html/other/Injustice%20at%20Every%20Turn.html

ABOUT IN THE LIFE MEDIA:
In The Life Media produces change through innovative media that exposes social injustice by chronicling lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender life. Produced by In The Life Media, IN THE LIFE is the longest running television show documenting the gay experience. IN THE LIFE is a two-time Emmy Award nominee, a Lambda Legal Liberty Award honoree, a Seigenthaler Award recipient from the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association for excellence in network television and a GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding TV Journalism-Newsmagazine.

Study Says Trans Discrimination Costs MA Millions Annually

A new research study released by The Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy shows that employment discrimination against transgender residents of Massachusetts likely costs the Commonwealth millions of dollars each year.

These costs are the result of reduced income tax revenue, expenditures on public assistance programs, and other costs. The added cost to the Commonwealth for public health insurance coverage alone is $3 million annually due to employment discrimination against transgender workers.

"When transgender people experience employment discrimination, not only can that have a substantial negative impact on people's lives, but it also affects the Commonwealth financially so all Massachusetts residents pay a price," said study author Jody L. Herman, the Peter J. Cooper Public Policy Fellow at the Williams Institute.

In calculating the cost to the Commonwealth, the study estimates that 6,600 Massachusetts residents have lost a job, 12,900 were not hired for a job, and 5,600 were denied a promotion, all due to due to anti-transgender bias. Furthermore, 15 percent of surveyed transgender Massachusetts residents made $10,000 or less in annual household income, whereas only 3 percent of the Massachusetts general population made this amount.

Employment discrimination can lead to lost wages and the need to access public assistance programs to replace lost income and health insurance coverage. This study estimates that the Commonwealth may be losing millions in income tax revenues each year due to employment discrimination. In addition, the Commonwealth is spending nearly $3 million every year in public health insurance coverage for those who have lost jobs due to anti-transgender bias.

Herman continued: "Clearly there is a need for more study of these issues. The Commonwealth pays the price when the fiscal ripple effect of employment discrimination is closely examined. In addition to public assistance and health insurance costs, housing instability and the need to access Commonwealth-funded job training and placement programs should also be considered for further study."

coming out column

Queeries: "I was outed on Facebook"

By Steven Petrow

Q: Even though my good friend Letisha lives with her girlfriend, she is not out to her family. At least she wasn't until last week. Right after the holidays I posted a lovey-dovey photo of the two of them on my Facebook page, tagging both. Then of course bam! The photo was automatically uploaded to Letisha's Facebook page and suddenly her whole family knew she was gay. Now Letisha won't speak to me because she says I outed her. I say it's her fault that she kept such a big secret from her family. Who's right?

A: Every day I get more and more questions about Facebook gone awry. It's so easy to stumble on some social faux pas that didn't even exist before. However, from what you write, there's enough blame to go around in this situation. First off, here's my advice to you: No matter what, don't tag people without asking their permission. Maybe you're at the beach and unaware that your Facebook friend has called in sick from work. Maybe you're photographing someone who is underage and the photo has caught him drinking. Or maybe your friend isn't out. On the other hand, Letisha does need to wake up and face the fact that everything about Facebook is viral. No matter how you set your privacy settings, you can't protect your privacy 100 percent. Lastly, a special note for your friend: Please don't ask others to be complicit in your secrets. It's certainly your right to stay closeted, but as you can see, it gets mucked up when you're asking friends to be accomplices. (And a technical pointer: Remember that you can always de-tag yourself from a photo.)

"Confronting a Cheater"

Q: I really need some advice. I think my boyfriend is cheating on me and sleeping with other guys behind my back. When we first got together we decided that we weren't going to have an open relationship. Recently he said he would have no problem if I wanted to sleep with other guys – as long as I told him first. That made me suspicious so I did something I probably shouldn't have: I logged into his Facebook account and found an incriminating message. I know we need to talk but I am really bad with confrontation. What should I do?

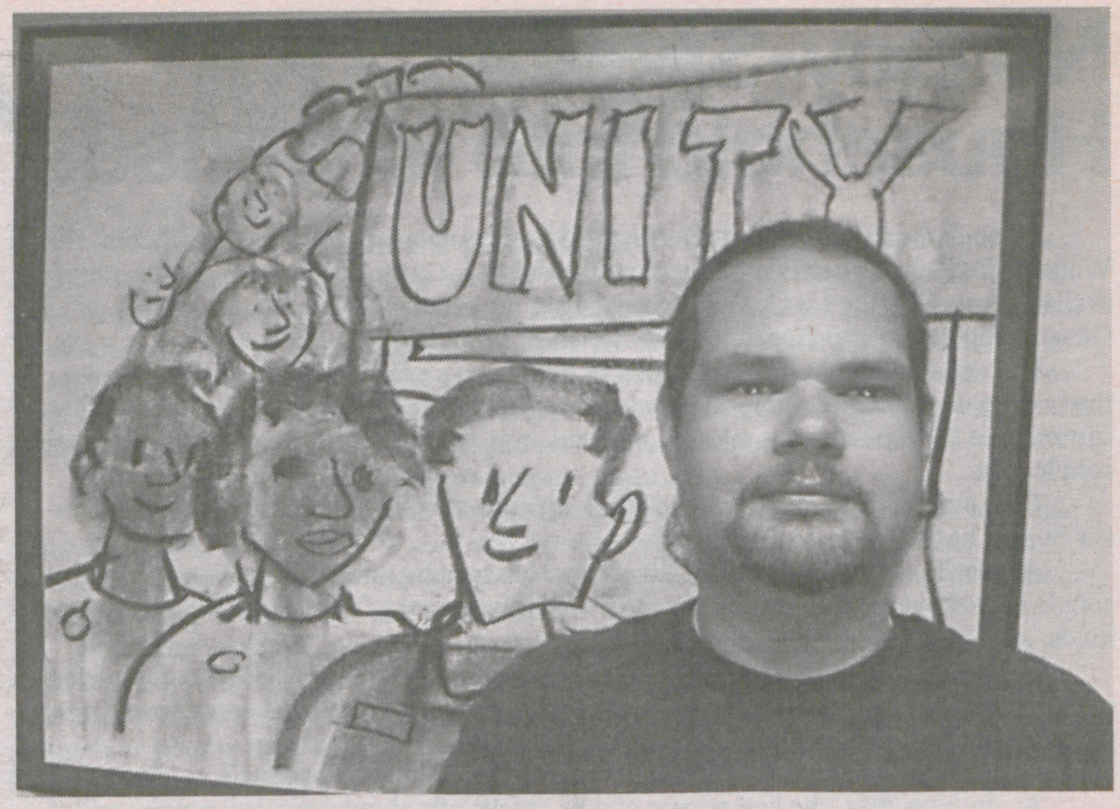
A: Very few of us like the idea of confrontation, but when it comes to questions about monogamy and sexual health, you really have no choice. This doesn't mean you need to come at him like a bat out of hell, but you do need to express your point of view and ask the important questions. The ability to do so is really important for your own self-respect. Perhaps there's a middle ground that you'd be comfortable with? Many couples create rules in situations like this: No tricking in your own bed, for instance; it's okay if one of you is out of town; or the number of liaisons is limited to prevent a romantic attachment. On the other hand, you may have no interest at all in anything but monogamy—as per your original agreement. Either way, you need to talk together and make some mutually comfortable decisions. If you do agree to have some new openness in your relationship, by the way, remember that you'll need to come to some clear understanding of what each of you considers safer sex; there are about as many different definitions of that as there are couples. As for your logging into your boyfriend's Facebook account: That's a form of cheating, too. Leveling with him about your actions may help him to do the same.

"He's never had sex before"

Q: I've been going out with a guy who's never had sex before with a man and is more than a little apprehensive. We're really into each other, but to tell you the truth I'm a little nervous myself at the thought of initiating a virgin. I just want to make sure to handle things right. Do you have any advice for me?

A: There's a special responsibility in being someone's "first." I don't know about you, but I still remember my very first time—and let me just say I was a nervous wreck. Since you already know that your fella is anxious, see if you can tease out what's on his mind. Often a first timer's main concern is that he'll do something "wrong." If you can help your new lover realize that it's not about technical performance but rather emotional connection, you'll both benefit. Also, let him know that he can determine the pace. Still, there will likely be some teachable moments as he tries new things on for size. I wouldn't make corrections or suggestions in the heat of the moment, but instead maybe chat a bit later on if you feel the need. One last thing: Be sure to lead by example when it comes to the topic of safer sex.

Steven Petrow is a regular contributor to 365gay.com, GayWeddings.com and the author of the forthcoming, "Steven Petrow's Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners" (www.gaymanners.com). Send him your questions: ask@gaymanners.com



Marin Receives Advocate Award

Lancaster's Adanjesus Marin recently received the The Susan C. Eaton Award. Eaton wrote the second-ever Keystone Research Center report, Pennsylvania's Nursing Homes: Promoting Quality Care and Quality Jobs.

Marin was selected because of his visible advocacy within the south central region. He started participating in the movement for social and worker justice while still in a stroller, having spent many Saturdays with his mom encouraging grocery shoppers to support the United Farm Workers grape boycott.

At age 12, Marin began farm work in the Rio Grande Valley picking vegetables and salting for the UFW. During 7th grade he organized a student walkout and sit in against forced segregation in one of his classes. By freshman year in high school he became the most visible youth leader in San Antonio as the chair of Students United for Justice, a group he formed in reaction to city criminalization of youth. At age 15, Marin dropped out of school to work full time for his first union, where he organized and represented school district, city and county employees for an SEIU affiliate, and soon became the local's top recruiter in a harsh right to work climate.

When 16, Marin moved to New York on his own for a national youth organization. Over the next 12 years Marin worked for various unions, community and civil rights organization. While working for the Independent Farmworkers Center in upstate New York Marin organized 300 farmworkers and negotiated the first collective bargaining agreement ever covering farmworkers in the state. As a founder of the Student Liberation Action Movement in 1995 in the City University of New York system Marin was first arrested during a hunger strike protesting tuition increases. Adanjesus has since been arrested 12 times in civil rights, labor, and student protests.

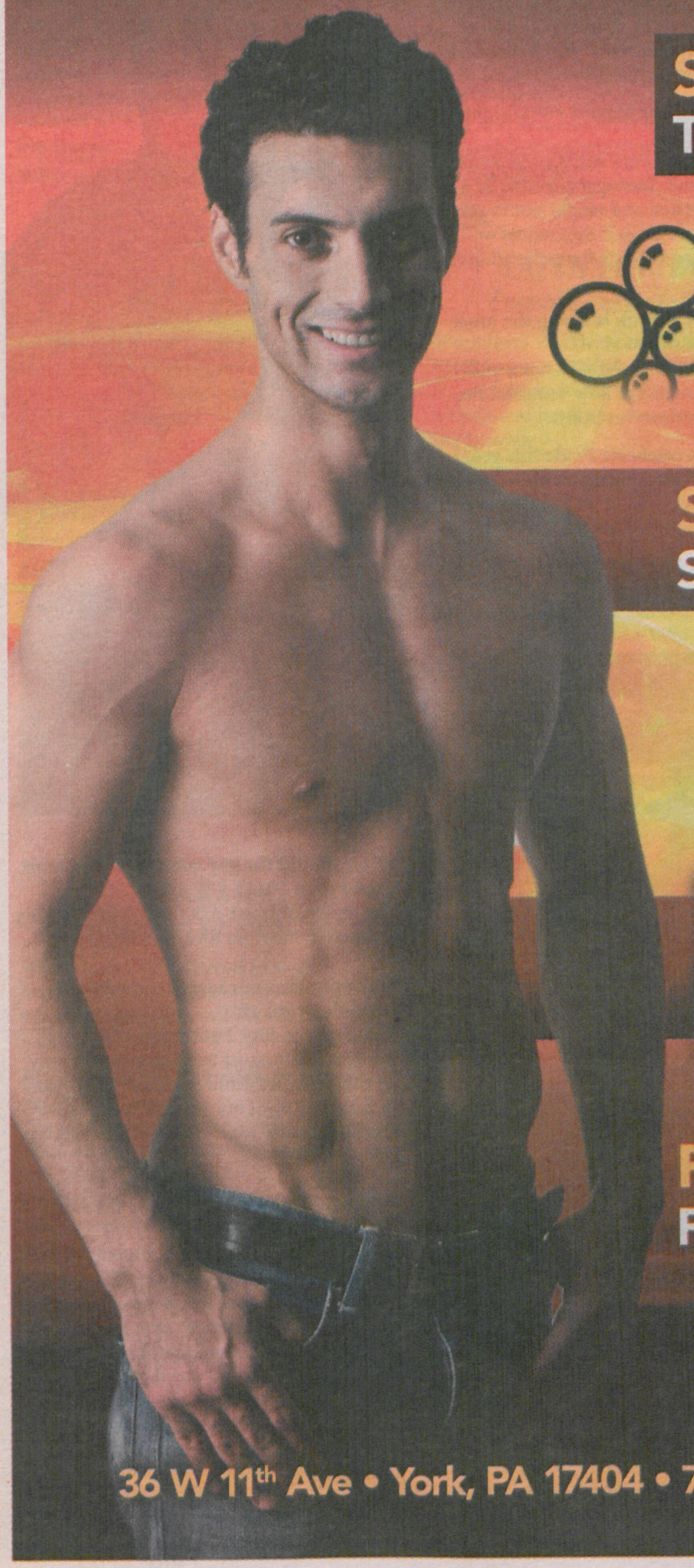
One of Marin's proudest accomplishments while living in New York was co-founding the Asociacion Tepeyac de Nueva York which grew to become the largest Mexican immigration and civil rights organization in the city, with over 45 neighborhood committees. While living in New York Marin worked as an organizer for UNITE!, the AFT, and AFSCME successfully recruiting thousands of workers into those unions.

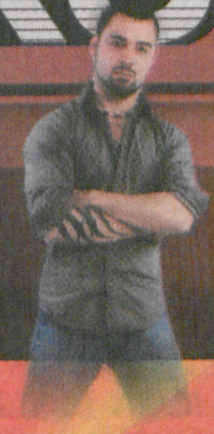
Seven Years ago Adanjesus moved to Pittsburgh to work for his current local SEIU Healthcare Pa, after then Secretary Treasurer Neal Bisno conviced him that Pennsylvania needed organizers more than New York did. During his time with his local Marin has worked in various capacities, including representing Hospital and Nursing Home employees, organizing campaigns, and is currently a political organizer with the local. Adanjesus was elected to the SEIU Healthcare PA executive board two years ago.

In 2009 Adanjesus moved to Lancaster attracted to its hip culture in a historic setting. Soon after arriving Marin organized an LGBT civil rights march which led to the forming of the Lancaster LGBT Organizing Committee. Last year when County Commissioner's proposed the elimination of the County's Human Relation's Commission, Marin co-founded and served as coordinator for the Committe to Defend Civil Rights in Lancaster (CDCRL). The CDCRL went on to form the broadest, most diverse coalition in the County's history ranging from Unions to the Chamber of Commerce, and from traditional civil rights organizations to historic churches. While the fight to save the Commission was ultimately unsuccessful, the marches, vigils, public meetings and events organized by the CDCRL has had a lasting impact on the level of unity and militancy in Lancaster County. Marin currently serves as the Chair for the Lancaster City Human Relations Commission, as well as serving on the board of Lancaster Pride. Earlier this year Adanjesus joined the Board of Equality Pa, Pennsylvania's statewide, non-partisan education, outreach and advocacy organization seeking equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Pennsylvanians.

SUMMERS ARE ALWAYS HOT
ONLY AT CLUB XS!

CLUB XS





SATURDAY, JULY 9
The return of LA's DJ Drew G

SATURDAY, JULY 16
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Special Guest DJ Darryl Strickland

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We R Who We R ... and Proud of it!

By Skip Sheffield

2011 was a pride-filled year. Most notably, it was the year that closed the book on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Also, the Obama administration announced its determination that discrimination based on sexual orientation is unconstitutional.

On the airwaves, artists Ke$ha and Lady Gaga boldly sang their support for the gay community with celebratory anthems "We R Who We R" and "Born This Way". The playing field saw athletes like Swedish soccer player Anton Hysen and British cricketer Steven Davies come out as gay. Even the be-spangled Olympic figure skating champion Johnny Weir sashayed out of his closet.

Gay bullying became a hot button issue in 2011 and with campaigns like "It Gets Better", the community proved, once again, it will not cower to hate. We polled some community newsmakers on what they are most proud of and how they plan to celebrate being born this way in 2011.

AIDEN LESLIE
Out Singer

What does PRIDE mean to you?
PRIDE means walking with integrity, owning who you are and what you do in your life.

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
Every year we move forward as a community. Every year we grow less tolerant of unequal rights.

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Marriage equality. Once it is recognized, everything else will follow.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
There are too many pioneers to single one specifically. But I do believe if you're a celebrity and you decide to come out of the closet, it inspires others to do the same.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
I'm looking forward to celebrating and performing several Gay Pride events this summer.

✶ ✶ ✶

HECTOR FONSECA
Out DJ

What does PRIDE mean to you?
Celebration of diversity, acceptance and tolerance.

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
Getting rid of "Don't ask, Don't tell". That was a huge victory!

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Gay Teen Bullying. Bullying needs to be stopped on all ends, period.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
Lady Gaga. I remixed Born This Way and didn't realize the profound effect until I got an e-mail from a young teenager thanking me for making it easier for him to come out and feel comfortable with himself. Gaga should be applauded.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
I'm excited to be spinning fifteen Pride celebrations this summer!

KIMBERLY DAVIS
Club Diva

What does PRIDE mean to you?
Pride means not being inhibited in anything that you do. Everything is full out and no apologies needed.

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
The gay community should be proud of all of their achievements. Just being here, queer, and making everyone get used to it!

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Teen bullying is a very serious and sometimes fatal issue. Teenagers need to be properly educated and taught not to profile anyone because of their differences or preferences and it starts from the adults in their lives.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
Anyone making the slightest noise and bringing awareness of how beautiful the community is deserves praise.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
Watching my gay children twirl to "Twist of Love"... oooow!

✶ ✶ ✶

JINCEY LUMPKIN
Lesbian Porn Titan

What does PRIDE mean to you?
Knowing that we don't need to hide or change anything about ourselves, including our sexuality.

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
The repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell was a big, big step in the right direction.

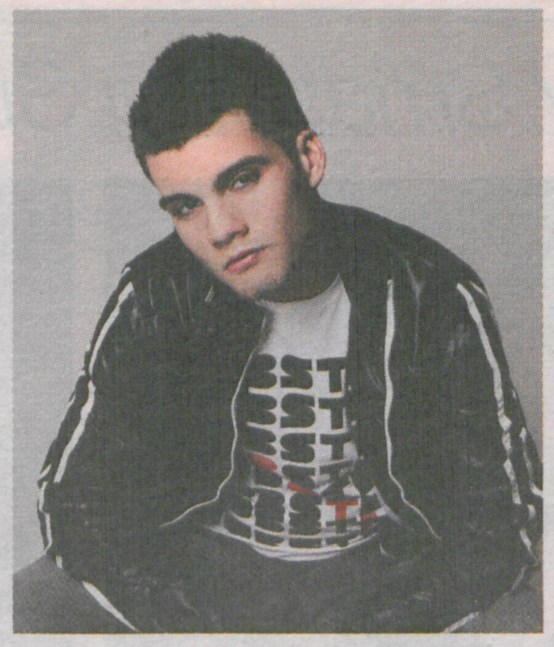
What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Marriage equality. I got married in Connecticut last August in a private ceremony, and then my wife and I tied the knot again in front of 225 of our friends in Antigua, Guatemala. We were Guatemala's first ever gay wedding!

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
President Obama. With his support of the repeal of both Don't Ask Don't Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act, he is showing everyone through actions that he supports our efforts to attain equal rights. I'll take action over lip service any day.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
I'm helping to organize New York's official girls' party for Pride.

continued on next page >

D ALEXANDER
Out Singer



What does PRIDE mean to you?
It is throwing your hands up and saying "f it" to the world. Whether gay or straight, pride is celebrating security within yourself.

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
We should be proud of the mark we have left on pop culture. We have made our presence loud and clear. After all, we were "born this way, baby!"

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Even though marriage should be an equal right for all, I think the bigger issue at hand is bullying and teen suicide. Parents need to stop forcing a conformist attitude on their kids. So what if your son wears eyeliner or wants to wear a dress to school? We should all be allowed to express ourselves however we want without having to be made to feel like freaks.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
Lady Gaga. She says everything people wish they could say.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
I am celebrating myself in 2011. D. Alexander is my pride.

✶ ✶ ✶

FAITH MICHAELS
Female Impersonator

What does PRIDE mean to you?
Pride to me is not just for the GLBT community to come together, but for our friends and family to show their support for our lifestyle.

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
That we keep moving forward.

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
All of our struggles are of equal importance as they impact all of our lives.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
Lady Gaga.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
I will be performing on stage, opening the minds of all the straight people watching.

✶ ✶ ✶

SARIAH
Queen of Hearts

What does PRIDE mean to you?
The freedom to express yourself, love yourself, enjoy yourself, and live life how you want to live.

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
The gay community should be so proud of its strong, positive representation in the media. Today, there are so many actors, singers, and dancers expressing themselves fully, not afraid to be free with their sexuality.

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Gay adoption. Earlier this year, a dear friend adopted a young girl with her wife. It was a difficult process for them but they fought through and now triumphantly have the family they wished for.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
Chris Colfer (Kirt Hummel on Glee). I love that his beautiful character is on TV

and being welcomed into living rooms all around the world.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
I will celebrate Pride all around the U.S. with my hearts! I will also spend it with my gay sister who I am so proud to call my family.

KELLI
Pop Diva

What does PRIDE mean to you?
Pride is owning who you are and affirming what you represent. It is being proud of your identity and advocating for equality.

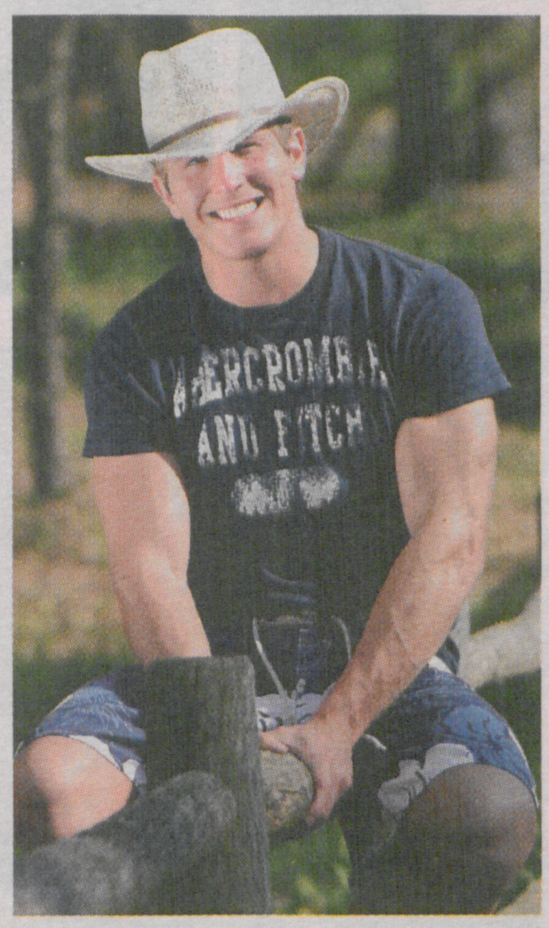
What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
The community took further strides towards marriage equality, the awareness of bullying, and showing the world their inevitable pride in themselves as a community.

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Teen bullying is the result of a ripple effect that starts when a young person overhears hateful slurs at the home or observes it in society. This constant borage of discrimination feeds into the minds of teenagers who don't have the knowledge of accepting people who are different than themselves. Therefore, the ignorance of the unknown continues.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
It is not just one person who has helped the gay community. The gay community as a whole is working together as one towards their goal of equality.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
On stage singing to the boys!

✶ ✶ ✶



SCOTT HERMAN
ally

What does PRIDE mean to you?
That no matter what other people say, you will always be yourself. You will not change or conform for anyone.

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
The phenomena of the "It Gets Better" campaign.

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Gay teen bullying. Parents need to teach their kids about respect and to not be homophobic.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
Dan Savage. For equality to officially become a reality we need more people to make their voices heard.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
I am encouraging everyone in my "Hermanation" fitness community to support their gay friends and family.

✶ ✶ ✶

PAM ANN
Stewardess to the Stars

What does PRIDE mean to you?
One big party with lots of rainbow flags, red patent hot pants, leather harnesses, dykes on bikes and glitter!

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
Grindr.

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Gays should be allowed two carry-on bags.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
Elton John and David Furnish on the cover

continued on page 25

Black and White Party Smashing Success!

This round Central Voice wanted to celebrate the "party makers," the dozens of talented community theatre people, choreographers, stage crews, silent auctioneers, and security, who volunteer countless hours perfecting an event that consistently dazzles attendees. The party is seven hours in total length, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. The all volunteer board and its volunteers spend more than 1 month planning and preparing for each hour of the party.

La Dolce Vita!

Chamber on the move

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Beats Path to Diversity

By Bill Krenz

Conference

The chamber continues to research how it can offer better services for our lgbt community in the region. CEO Russ Boggs, and vice president Deb McClain attended on May 5-7 the yearly CCBO (Council on Chambers and Business Organizations) 2011 Northeast Regional Summit, held in Connecticut.

Mixers

The chamber mixers continue to be a great success. On May 12 the chamber membership returned to The Paper Lion Gallery in Lemoyne for another packed event. David K from 'The Art of David K' performed live painting demonstration, while Bill Grace, co-owner, explained their business expansion with significant local corporations.

Best Western

On June 16, the chamber again visited the Best Western Premier The Central Hotel & Conference Center, and toured the newly renovated facility! The chamber's annual dinner will be held at this facility on January 21, 2012. See the web site for further details and remember to RSVP for mixer events via the web site www.cpglcc.org. The networking opportunities continue to be a great way to meet people and network.

Black & White Party

Many members of the board and chamber members supported the May 14 Black & White party event at the Zembo Shrine Event Center in Harrisburg. This fantastic event benefited the Black and White Party, Inc. a nonprofit for HIV/AIDS services in the region.

Lancaster Pride

The chamber participated and sponsored the Lancaster Pride event on June 18 at Buchannan Park. This pride event continues to get better each year, and definitely had increased attendance this year. The chamber was present with a stand and promoted the chamber's activities in the local community. In addition, several members helped to staff' the stand and promoted their business.

Diversity

The chamber also partnered in the June 29 4th Annual Celebrate Diversity Networking Reception at the Crowne Plaza, Harrisburg. The board members discussed lgbt issues and concerns with our alliance partners and other diversity-related non-profit organizations. This event was coordinated by the Harrisburg Regional Chamber.

Future Events

Pride

July 30, Harrisburg Pride, Riverfront Park.

August 11 - "The Why and How of Social Media" program and Networking Mixer – Home of Robert Godfrey, Jr. – MyCommunity Tickets.com, York

Alder Health Services

Sept 13 - Mixer – Alder Health Services, Harrisburg

China

Another benefit of belonging to the chamber is the opportunity to go on a China Trip for $1,999. The deadline is July 1 to place your down payment. The trip dates are Oct. 22 through Oct. 30, and is being coordinated by the Harrisburg Regional Chamber. The trip goes to four cities, and includes all transportation from Harrisburg to JFK, non-stop flight to Beijing, all hotels, meals, and sight seeing trips. It's a great trip at a great price, for our membership. Contact Bill Krenz, at email'bkrenz@cpglcc.org' for additional details.

The chamber continues to look for volunteers from the business community to participate in our various committee meetings. If you are thinking of joining an LGBT professional organization, please visit our web site and check out the various committees. Contact us if you can help out!

Be sure to check out our website for a directory of lgbt owned and friendly businesses. Please go to the chamber's web site for more details. The chamber web site is the best source to determine where our community needs to spend its money!

Contact: www.cpglcc.org

DON'T ASK. JUST .ning ME.

thecentralvoice.ning.com

Health Update

National Coalition of LGBT Health

Updated Recommendations - HIV Prevention

On April 28 and 29, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) convened a consultation to review a set of proposed interventions and services for the next edition of Updated Recommendations for HIV Prevention with Persons Living with HIV (PLWH), scheduled to be released in 2012. The recommendations will include a broad range of HIV prevention activities, including partner services, STD treatment, linkage and retention in care, and HIV medication adherence. The recommendations will be consistent with several objectives identified in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, including increasing the percentage of PLWH who know their HIV status to 90%; reducing HIV transmission rates by 30%; and increasing the percentage of newly diagnosed individuals linked into care within three months to 80%.

First National Transgender Health Summit

The Center for Excellence in Transgender Health, headed by Coalition board member JoAnne Keatley, hosted the first-ever National Transgender Health Summit in San Francisco in April. The groundbreaking summit brought together a wide range of researchers, advocates, and community leaders, including Coalition members such as the Transgender Law Center, the Network for LGBT Health Equity, and the National Center for Transgender Equality. Hutson Inniss and Kellan Baker presented jointly with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) on the Coalition's work around transgender health and health as a social justice issue. Kellan also presented with Masen Davis of the Transgender Law Center and Justus Eisfeld of Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE) on the wide range of state, national, and international opportunities for transgender health advocacy. A highlight of the summit was the release of the new Primary Care Protocol for Transgender Patient Care, which supports the Center's mission to increase access to comprehensive, effective, and affirming health care services for trans and gender-variant communities.

New Inclusive Regs, HUD

Stable and affordable housing is a major component of good health and wellbeing for everyone, including lgbt people. Among other benefits, stable housing can help reduce substance use, lower risk of HIV infection, and improve mental and physical health. Earlier this year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) proposed regulations banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in its core federal housing programs. The Coalition strongly supports the new regulations and submitted comments recommending a broader and more inclusive definition of family and asking that the proposed ban on discrimination be extended to include perceived as well as actual sexual orientation and gender identity.

New Inclusive Regulations, Labor

Like housing, regular employment and a workplace free of discrimination and harassment is a crucial factor in quality of life for LGBT people. Employment is particularly important for health because employer-based health insurance is a cornerstone of the US health system. Recognizing this, the Department of Labor joined the Department of Health and Human Services in revising its equal employment opportunity policy to include gender identity as well as sexual orientation. The Coalition welcomes the new policies and looks forward to continuing to work with agencies such as the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Housing and Urban Affairs to create and implement policies that help LGBT people and their families lead safe and healthy lives.

SEIU: Bush Tax Cuts' Not Worth Celebrating

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) President Mary Kay Henry issued the following statement on the 10-year anniversary of the Bush tax giveaways to the rich:

"Ten years ago, President George W. Bush signed into law massive tax giveaways for millionaires who popped champagne corks across the country to celebrate their new windfall. The fallout left our country with a severe economic hangover and stuck middle class families with the bill.

"There is little evidence that the Bush tax cuts did anything to stimulate our economy other than to line the pockets of millionaires and billionaires. However, there is ample evidence that these irresponsible tax giveaways contributed to the growth of the deficit and made recovery from the Great Recession even harder for working families.

"Congress needs to show some political maturity in the debate on the debt ceiling and on the budget and put revenue on the table along with sensible spending cuts. The Bush tax giveaways for billionaires, who should be giving to charity instead of getting it, should not be extended. We simply cannot afford them.

"It is time we had a tax code that is fair to people who work for a living. Let's stop giving special tax giveaways to millionaires who don't need them. We need our leaders to bring private and public sectors together to fix our nation's infrastructure so we can regain our competitiveness. Let's get to work investing in the future by investing in our school, not gutting their budgets and demonizing our teachers. Let's strengthen the middle class by creating good jobs that can support a family and come with real benefits like a pension.

"If Congress musters the political will to focus on the long-term health of our economy, we can restore fairness to our tax system. That will be an achievement we can all celebrate."

Creep Count: Rick Santorum

By D'Anne Witkowski

I'm sure glad my last name isn't Santorum. For one thing, I wouldn't want to be related to Rick Santorum. For another thing, his name means "The frothy mix of lube and fecal matter that is sometimes the byproduct of anal sex." And that's the first thing that pops up on Google.

Santorum's "Google problem," as it has been dubbed in the media lately, is something he brought on himself when he compared gays getting married to man-on-dog sex. Shortly thereafter, a reader of Dan Savage's "Savage Love" column suggested coining "Santorum" as a sex term. Savage obliged. And "santorum" was born.

In 2007 Santorum was voted out of his U.S. Senate seat and we didn't hear much from him. But he's back with his eye on being President Frothy-Mix-of-Lube-and-Fecal-Matter of the United States, and making sure gays and lesbians aren't allowed to marry is still one of his biggest concerns.

It's as if the only thing between the teachings of, say, Jesus and abject indifference to human suffering is homosexuality.

Needless to say, President Obama's recent decision to stop defending the Defense of Marriage Act in court because it is unconstitutional has gotten Santorum riled.

In a March 4 column for the Des Moines Register, Santorum wrote, "Intellectually, morally, and constitutionally President Obama's claim is absurd. And it is a dagger aimed at the heart of a core constitutional value: the free exercise of religion."

This is, of course, not true. The anti-gay right has been crying about how treating gays equally is akin to banning God and demanding everyone worship Perez Hilton. No one is advocating locking pastors up or turning churches into gay bars. What Santorum is really arguing for isn't the freedom of religion; it's the freedom to discriminate and the freedom to legislate using an anti-gay "morality" code based on religion.

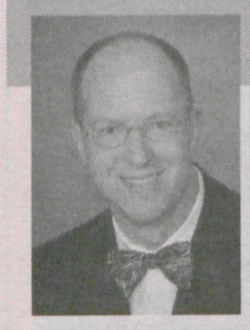
Oddly, to defend his argument he used the example of Catholic Charities in Boston who stopped doing adoptions because they didn't want to grant adoptions to gays. According to The Boston Globe, "(Catholic Charities decided) to abandon its founding mission, rather than comply with state law requiring that gays be allowed to adopt children." Mind you, the state wasn't forcing Catholic Charities to hand over all of the babies to a pillaging gay mob. The state was saying, "Look, you can't judge a parent unfit just because he or she is a homo." That was, obviously, too much to ask, and the organization chose dogma over kids who needed help.

"With the redefinition of marriage, religious groups of all types will be forced to make the same type of choice - get out of the business of helping people or compromise your constitutionally protected convictions," Santorum wrote.

Let me get this straight: if gays are treated equally then religions of all kinds will abandon social services? Like the local church-run soup kitchen won't give out soup anymore because they don't want to give soup to gays? It's as if the only thing between the teachings of, say, Jesus and abject indifference to human suffering and need is homosexuality. So long as religious organizations can discriminate against gays, all is right with the world. Makes perfect sense.

In his column Santorum charitably added, "I believe if two adults of the same sex want to have a relationship that is their business. But when they ask society to give that relationship special recognition and privileges, then we should be able to have a rational debate about whether that is good public policy." Aww, isn't that sweet? Santorum thinks gays deserve to mind their own business. So long as they aren't asking to be treated fairly, everything's cool.

D'Anne Witkowski is a columnist for Q Syndicate.



legal column

GLBT Elder Care Issues: The Conversation Continues with Pride

Leo L. Dunn, Attorney at Law

Since this is the Pride issue let's consider how much the younger lgbt generation should appreciate their seniors and what options seniors have for planning now that didn't exist in 1999 much less back in 1959 or '69. A few of my clients grew up in the Depression when they couldn't conceive of living openly with their partners – even in NYC. Most grew up in the 50s and 60s when they still could be institutionalized for same sex attraction. It took some major work to get us where we are and most of the heavy lifting occurred before 1990.

The 1990s and 2000s allowed our community to make great strides in a short time period. Back in the 70s and 80s, senior lgbt members had to choose whether to try to grow old on their own and hope for the best if they became incapacitated or go back into the closet and move into a nursing home or with family.

Now lgbt elders in an ever-larger growing area of the U.S. can chose a lgbt friendly personal care home, nursing home, or rely on hospice without fear of their partner or friends being excluded from their sides. It's still far from 100% friendly out there, but its growing better every year. Which brings us to the question of the year: Should lgbt elders in committed relationships get married?

Five years ago, I would never have advised a same sex couple living in Pennsylvania to get a civil union. Based on jurisprudence at that time, it was too easy for it to be used against a surviving partner. Now I believe that going to New England or D.C. and getting married is a good idea as long as you've considered how it may affect your financial stability in your silver years. You still need to be aware that some probate judges will take hard lines against a surviving partner and may try to invalidate a will. But if the will was done before the marriage and is worded to show that the maker knew what he or she was doing and was under no undue influence, the will should be upheld. If not upheld by the county judge, then it should be upheld on appeal to the Superior Court. Factor in that possibility into your planning – make sure there is enough insurance to allow either partner to appeal a bad county-level decision. Homophobic judges (thankfully the number gets smaller every year) rely on parties not having the money or knowledge to appeal their decision.

Depending on the outcome of a couple cases currently wending their way through federal court, I may even start encouraging clients to retire to Massachusetts and get married in order to be treated the same as an opposite sex couple for all federal purposes. These cases are arguably much more important than Proposition 8. These cases set the stage for DOMA to be overturned by using a states' rights claim.

Back to elder planning and marriage in good old Pennsylvania. Even though marriage will not get a same sex couple equal treatment under state or federal law at this time, it can be used to show intent and underline why a judge should uphold a partner's right to direct the care for their incapacitated spouse or uphold a will being challenged by greedy family members of a deceased partner.

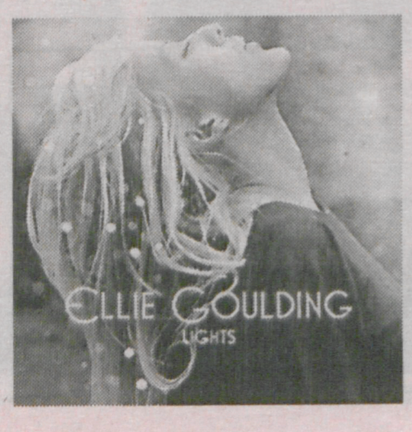
Hopefully, by the time another five years have gone by, same sex marriage will be available nationwide and granted the same state and federal law status as any other validly contracted marriage. And remember, if it is, all of us owe thanks to our senior members who started and kept up the fight for equal rights for the past four decades.

Leo Dunn is an attorney who practices estate planning in Harrisburg. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.com or 717-503-1207.

REVIEWS | *BOOKS DVDs CDs*

ZOE BADWI
If you've had an eye on the club chart or a foot on the dance floor over the last couple of years, then you'll be well acquainted with the name Zoë Badwi by now. In late 2008, the Melbourne-based dance-pop diva burst on to the scene with the huge club smash Release Me that was the song of the summer. Release Me still fills dance floors over 18 months later, Shakira and The Eurythmics, say: "We still play Release Me every week! It was our fave track of last year - we love Zoë!"

ADELE 21
Columbia Records/XL is proud to announce the North American release of 21, the eagerly awaited sophomore album from British singer-songwriter Adele, is the follow up to Adele's critically acclaimed, award winning debut album 19 (both named after her age at the time the songs were written). Renowned for her incredibly unique vocal ability and songwriting, Adele's debut received two Grammy Awards in 2009 (Best New Artist and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance) as well as a BRIT Award in 2008 (Critics Choice).



ELLIE GOULDING
Already a success in her native England, 24 year-old UK singer and songwriter Ellie Goulding will release a special US full length of LIGHTS March 8th on Cherrytree/ Interscope Records. The US version will include three songs ("Lights,""Animal," and "Your Song") not available on the original UK version.

MCC column

Pride - More than being proud

By Rev. Lori E. Rivera, Pastor
MCC of the Spirit

"Pride" is one of those words in Christian faith that I have to struggle and wrestle with. In scripture I am admonished not be to prideful or to boast of being proud. I am reminded not to be haughty or oppressive in my pride. Yet at the same time I am proud and I do have pride. I have pride in the journey I have taken so far in my life as a lesbian woman. I am proud of the struggles I have overcome to be where I am today. I am proud of the life my partner and I have built together. So I know I walk a fine line between having pride in my own accomplishments and the accomplishments of our lgbtq community and being prideful.

I remember years ago while still in seminary I had to do an assignment requiring me to write my own obituary. It made me think of the things I wanted to do in my life. I was working on this assignment at the same time that same-sex marriage was an issue in Massachusetts. I included in my obituary that I was "remembered as a forerunner for same-sex marriage in the state of Florida." And while I know that conservative Florida will probably be that last state to allow same-sex marriage (I been told that Pennsylvania will be second to last), I am pride of the advances our communities has made in the last 10 years.

I remember the first time I went with a group of folks to our city courthouse in Florida to apply for a marriage license. While we didn't have the desired effect we did make an impact. Before going to the courthouse we checked the city website for their requirements for marriage licenses. There wasn't any reference to gender on the site but it did say that the bride and groom must both come to the courthouse in person to get a license. An hour after we left the courthouse the website had been changed to include bride (female) and groom (male) gender notations. Yes we had an impact and we were proud of it.

And we should be proud. As the saying goes, "we've come a long way baby!" Many will remember with me a time when the idea of marriage or civil union or even domestic partnerships wasn't even a part of our conversations. We were more concerned about losing our jobs or our apartments if someone was to find out that we were gay or lesbian. We were concerned about being arrested if the police arrived at a bar we were in. We were concerned about our friends dealing with HIV and AIDS. We were concerned about our safety as we met for parties and church services. I remember having folks in the parking lot during church services to keep an eye on our cars. I will be the first to admit that some of these same things still happen but not with the frequency it once did. So we can be proud of the changes that have been made in our communities. "We've come a long way baby!"

As we move into June and July and celebrate our Pride, we should do so with joy and celebration. Hold your head up high lgbtq community. We are wonderful people, with wonderful gifts that the rest of the world needs to see and know about! We are wonderful people who want to live a fulfilling life with our partners, children, families of birth and families of choice and our friends. We are wonderful people who want to make a difference in our communities for all people. So rejoice as your celebrate your Pride – in yourself and your community.

Female Executives Association Meets

Central Pa. Association for Female Executives (CPAFE) holds its monthly Speed Networking meeting at Giant Super Foods, Community Room, 3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, Pa., July 6, 7:30 a.m. to 9 am.

The entire meeting will focus on networking one-on-one with members and guests in a comfortable yet productive atmosphere.

Please prepared by considering three to five strengths about yourself and what benefits you offer others. Bring business cards. Members are encouraged to bring guests. Guests fee is waived and the member who brings the most guests receives a summer fun basket.

"This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in attending a CPAFE meeting," said Rachel Strella, Marketing Chair. "Attendees will have an opportunity to learn about this amazing group of women and attend this popular speed-networking event." CPAFE's mission is to support and encourage business development through mentoring, education and networking.

Ned Smith Center Celebrates Annual Nature & Arts Festival

The Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art hosts its 18th annual Nature and Arts Festival along the banks of the scenic Susquehanna River at MYO Park in Millersburg. The festival begins with a "Twilight Tribute" on July 29, 6 p.m.

Main festival activities take place July 30, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All activities at MYO Park are FREE, regular admission fees apply at the Ned Smith Center.

At this year's festival, we will focus on our Native American heritage through programs and performances. Frank Angelo (Two Otters) will present two programs on Native American culture and dance, one on Friday evening and another on Saturday afternoon. Jim Stutzman will present a program on the history of Native Americans in Pennsylvania on Saturday morning, and Kermit Henning will teach about edible wild plants on Saturday afternoon.

We'll kick off the festivities on Friday night with perennial favorites Down to Earth Band, a demonstration by the Mid-Atlantic Disc Dogs, and Summer Stargazing with Steve Bishop, Vice President of Science and IMAX Programs at Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts.

The main stage will feature performances by contemporary folk trio Voxology, the Pennsylvania Regional Ballet, Twin Valley Players, and Stringfellows; as well as a family-friendly live animal presentation by ZooAmerica.

Throughout Saturday's festivities, shuttle vans will run between MYO Park and the Ned Smith Center. The center will be open until 6 p.m., and will feature Gone for the Day: Ned Smith and the Pennsylvania Game Commission in the Olewine Gallery and Ned Smith: Nature through a Master's Hands in the brand-new Ned Smith Gallery. Exhibits are free to members and children under 12, regular fees apply to non-members.

The center will also feature the winning entries of our 2011 Youth Art Contest, as well as other educational exhibits.

The wide variety of programming and the unique blend of nature and the arts exemplifies the center's mission and the vision of its namesake, nationally recognized wildlife artist and naturalist, Ned Smith.

"This festival epitomizes the Ned Smith Center's continuing goal to honor the life work of Ned Smith and his wonderful, supportive wife, Marie," says John D. Laskowski, Festival Planning Committee Program Chair. "Ned deftly fused nature and art in his cherished gifts on canvas and we are honored to continue his legacy."

In keeping with the Center's education mission, the Youth Pavilion will be in full swing – children can make a fish print t-shirt, get their faces painted, create recycled butterflies and meet Smokey Bear. The famous Millersburg Ferry will host four programs, and singer-songwriter Van Wagner will be on hand in the new "Sharing Traditions with Children" tent for an hour of authentic Pennsylvania culture.

York events

Choo Choo Barn Marks Milestone - 50th Anniversary!
Until 9/30/2011
Route 741 East, 22 Gap Rd., Strasburg PA 17579
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
www.choochoobarn.com
717-687-7911
The curtain is going up for the 50th season of one of the largest, most engaging, custom model train displays in America. Experience a 1,700 square foot hand-crafted model train display at The Choo Choo Barn at Traintown, USA. In celebration of the 50th Anniversary, the Choo Choo Barn is offering a special promotion for anyone turning 50 during 2011. Visitors who hit the BIG 5-0 anytime this year can celebrate with free admission. Open daily.

Hanover Dutch Festival
7/30/2011, FREE
Downtown Hanover
www.hanoverchamber.com
German entertainment, 300+ vendors, car show and kids karnival.
Melissa Speal 717-637-6130

York Fest Arts Festival
8/27/2011-8/28/2011, FREE
250 E. Market St., York, Surrounding the Colonial Court House
www.yorkcity.org

Pressure Mounts on Orbitz Fox News Ads

Media Matters (MM) has kicked off its DropFox campaign by urging Orbitz (OWW), an online travel site, to pull its ads from the anti-lgbt Fox News network.

Three high-profile gay rights organizations—GLAAD, Courage Campaign and Equality Matters—signed the letter to Orbitz CEO Barney Harford asking that the company no longer support Fox News through ad revenue.

Media Matters' campaign aims to hold Fox News accountable for what it calls hate speech, misinformation, and other alarming deviations from the usual standards of a news organization. This campaign includes an online ad component to raise awareness about Orbitz's financial support for Fox News.

"Orbitz risks alienating gay and lesbian customers by giving ad dollars to Fox News, a network that blatantly promotes an anti-gay political agenda," said Ilyse Hogue, Senior Adviser at Media Matters.

"Orbitz customers who value equality can and will take their business elsewhere, and this is just the tip of the iceberg. Any company whose customer base values the diversity, civil rights, and journalistic standards should recognize that doing business with Fox will only cost them in the long run."

Fox News' history of destructive anti-gay language and actions includes:

• Giving Mike Huckabee his own show despite Huckabee's history of comparing homosexuality to drug abuse, incest, pedophilia, and necrophilia. Huckabee has repeatedly used his Fox platform to campaign against gay marriage, and he has suggested that marriage equality poses a threat to stable society.

• Bill O' Reilly repeatedly using his popular prime time show to warn against the "dangers" of allowing gay people near children, to assert that same-sex marriage could lead to polygamy, nuptials with turtles, ducks or dolphins, and to claim that implementing a hate crimes bill could protect pedophiles.

• Perpetuating the claim that repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell would impact troop readiness and morale, despite multiple reports — including the Pentagon's — to the contrary.

Orbitz's gay-specific travel site has been warmly received, has resulted in higher quality service for the lgbt community and has achieved an increase in growth for Orbitz. In the last few years, leading lgbt organizations such as GLAAD have recognized the great work that Orbitz has done in partnering with and catering to the lgbt community.

"Companies, especially ones with strong track records of lgbt inclusion, should think twice before supporting Fox News' pervasive pattern of indefensible bias against our community," said GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios. "Orbitz is an industry leader in supporting our community and we urge them to send a message that Fox News' attacks are unacceptable."

"Orbitz loves gay dollars and, we hope, lgbt people, but by funding homophobes and charlatans like hosts Bill O'Reilly and Mike Huckabee, Orbitz sends the wrong message," said Courage Campaign Founder and Chair Rick Jacobs. "Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people can go to plenty of other travel sites. We count on Orbitz to do the right thing and stop buying advertising on Fox News Channel so that LGBT people can continue to shop with Orbitz. The alternatives are clear."

A Media Matters analysis of coverage on everything from gay marriage to the repeal of DADT to gay individuals supports a conclusion that Fox's coverage is driven by an anti-LGBT political agenda and cannot be considered unbiased news.

Fox News, the group says, has engaged in years of anti-lgbt bigotry and smears:

• Fox News contributor Tucker Carlson wants kids to know the "unhappy facts" about gay people (April 19, 2011)

• Fox Nation, anti-gay hate group united in opposition to protecting LGBT individuals worldwide (March 24, 2011)

• Huckabee uses role at Fox News to launch anti-gay attacks (March 2, 2011)

• Fox attacks lgbt history bill as "propaganda" from "pro-gay agenda" (December 20, 2010)

• During discussion of gay-themed McDonald's ad, O'Reilly asks: "Do they have an al-Qaeda ad?" (June 3, 2010)

• LGBT groups criticize O'Reilly for "equating gays" with "terrorists" (June 3, 2010)

• Fox News contributor goes off on anti-gay rant (January 6, 2010)

• In vicious new smear, Rove falsely claims Jennings advocated for NAMBLA (October 7, 2009)

• Fox Nation, Washington Examiner manufacture Jennings-NAMBLA link (October 2, 2009)

• Glenn Beck depicts "Barney Frank To The Rescue" (June 29, 2009)

• Discussing "very important story," O'Reilly asks, "I can't figure out how they know the penguins are gay... Do they wear tight t-shirts?" (June 10, 2009)

• In "Street Meat" graphic, FBN's Bolling pictures Rep. Barney Frank "appropriately positioned...catching, of course" (May 11, 2009)

• Gingrich: "[T]here is a gay and secular fascism in this country that wants to impose its will on the rest of us" (November 17, 2008)

• O'Reilly: "[T]housands" of gays in one place "can be confusing to children" (July 13, 2007)

• O'Reilly: To "cluster" gays near children is "insane" and "inappropriate" (July 12, 2007)

• Coulter:"I don't think there's anything offensive about any variation of faggy, faggotry, faggot, fag" (March 7, 2007)

• Fox's Hill on Clinton's "Southern drawl": "[I]f she was attending, say, a GLAAD convention, would she speak with a lisp?" (March 6, 2007)

• O'Reilly logic: If kids of gay parents were equally healthy, why wouldn't eating cupcakes cause pregnancy? (December 14, 2006)

• O'Reilly on ban of Irish lesbian and gay group from NYC St. Patrick's Day parade: "I don't want these people intruding on a parade where little children are... watching." (March 21, 2006)

• Introducing a segment about the Academy Awards, Fox News anchor Gregg Jarret said that the films nominated in the Best Picture category carry "darker themes," such as "homosexuality; homicide bombings; political assassinations." (March 6, 2006)

Fox News compares same-sex relationships to bestiality, polygamy, incest, and pedophilia:

• During discussion of same-sex marriage, O'Reilly again brings up absurd question about marrying a duck (July 13, 2010)

• Huckabee claimed that legalizing same-sex marriage is like legalizing drug use, incest, and polygamy (April 9, 2010)

• O'Reilly: Gay marriage could lead to marrying a turtle (May 12, 2009)

• Beck uses toys to explain slippery slope from same-sex marriage to polyamorous marriage (May 12, 2009)

• On his radio program, Beck argues that gay marriage would allow for siblings to marry, if "they're both fixed" and can't procreate (May 12, 2009)

• O'Reilly, others on Fox News warn of "triads" with legalization of same-sex marriage (May 11, 2009)

• As a public official, Huckabee called

continued on page 29

Exhibition, Soirees, Classes at Art Association

The Art Association of Harrisburg Art School Annual Exhibition, 21 N. Front St., Harrisburg, is showing an exhibit through July 21. A Summer Soirees runs throughout the month. Prize juror for the exhibition was Richard Askey, Arts Coordinator for The Harrisburg School District.

Prize monies for the show have been contributed by Members First – Pastels & Drawings, Mixed Media; Peggy Grove – Sculpture & Ceramics; Rosewein Realty – Watercolours; Alan Hostetler Insurance – Oils & Acrylics; Sutliff Auto Group – Youth Awards; CD Warehouse – Best of Show; Madeline Reiley – Photography; Greater Harrisburg Arts Council and Norma Gotwalt – Youth Scholarship Awards. This year, there will also be three awards presented to winning faculty members in a special section of the exhibition, presented by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Meloni, Kathy Marley-Dunbar, and Windmill Studios.

The exhibition runs until July 21, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

The Summer Soirees, at the homes and gardens of Harrisburg city patrons, showcase original artists' works and offer hors d'ouevres and libations while viewing art and chatting with the artists.

The first soiree was hosted by Janetta and Richard Brenner and featured jeweler Ruth Leventhal, plein air painter Robert Hughes, and photographer Eric Olson. Music was provided by Jonathan Frazier.

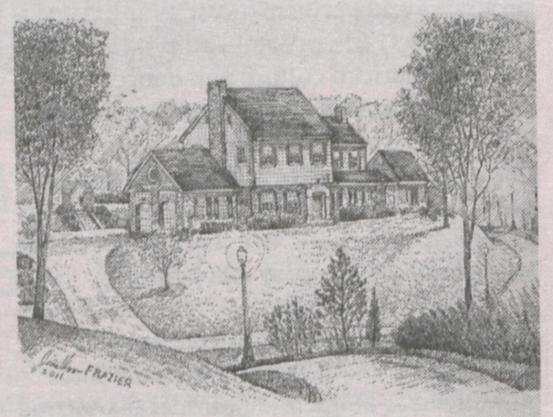
The second is soiree is hosted by Ellen and Bill Warren, July 16, 5 to 8 p.m. Artists will include Paul Gallo, plein air painter; Barbara Gutekunst, jeweler; Pat Keough, painter and monotypist; and William Tersteeg, ceramicist.

The third event will be hosted by Lennie and Mary Whitcomb. Plein air artists to be showcased will be Jonathan Frazier, David Henry, Brian Eppley, and Steve Wetzel.

Reservations are $40 in advance, or $45 at the door.

Classes

The Association will present Sunday workshops in the popular Japanese art forms ANIME' and MANGA, taught by Robert Taylor, the artist at Capital City



Gaming in the Harrisburg Mall.

The workshops will be held every Sunday this summer through August 28, 2 to 4 p.m. The fee to attend is $10 per session, with no pre-registration required. All ages from 10 through adult are welcome. The workshops will take place at the AAH building at 21 North Front Street, Harrisburg, with free parking available in the adjacent lot.

The AAH Summer Semester art classes for youth and adults will commence the week of July 18. Youth courses will include: Cartooning and Comics, Fantasy Art, Art for Kids, Drawing and Painting for Kids, Clay for Kids, and Junior Drawing and Painting.

Adult summer courses will include: Acrylic Painting, Basic Drawing, Basic Oil Painting, Collage, Experimental Mixed Media, Hand-built Pottery, Intermediate Drawing and Painting, Innovative Glazing Techniques, Landscape Painting, Open Flat-Media Painting Studio, Portraiture, Life Study, Watercolour, and Wheel Pottery.

Info: www.artassocofhbg.com, 717-236-1432

We R Who We R continued from page 19

of OK magazine. You know it was me that carried little Zachery for nine tedious months.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
With my gaggle of Gucci, Calvin Klein, and Mc Queen clad gays.

✶ ✶ ✶

EDDIE ELIAS
circuit DJ

What does PRIDE mean to you?
Pride is a time for the gay community to celebrate how far they've come and for the rest of the world to show its support to our gay brothers and sisters.

What should the gay community be most proud of in 2011?
The community's impact in the fight against AIDS is something to have real pride in.

What remains our biggest equal rights struggle in 2011?
Gay marriage. Nobody has the right to keep two people who love each other from cementing that bond.

What notable person is doing the most for gay rights in 2011?
Lady Gaga for championing gay rights and giving us plenty of hits to shake our booties to on the dance floor.

How will you celebrate Pride this year?
By doing what I do best. Bringing the fire to keep the gays moving on the dance floor all night long.

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THURSDAY | OCTOBER 6 | 7:30 PM

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Delphine and Carmela Calamari are the darlings of the Bay Ridge culinary community. Their public access cable cooking show, "Mangia Italiano," is always cooking up new family anecdotes, wacky dishes, and crazy song-and-dance routines to favorite tunes from the Italian-American songbook and beyond! Everyone eats, and LAUGHS, when they come to a Calamari Sisters' show!!!

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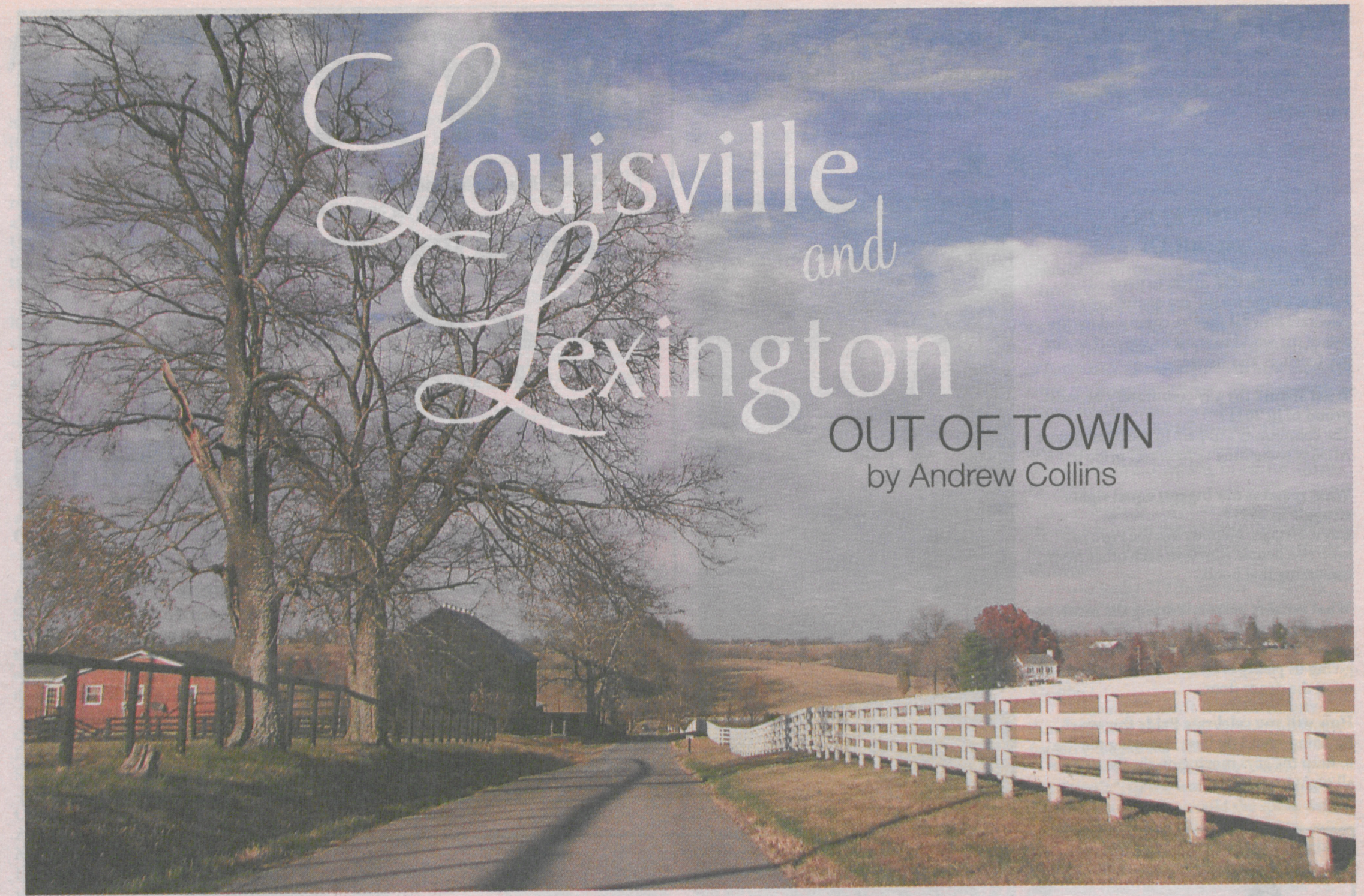
Louisville and Lexington

OUT OF TOWN

by Andrew Collins



Every year in May, all eyes fall upon Kentucky's pastoral Bluegrass region. During the first week of the month, the city of Louisville holds the Kentucky Derby, the most celebrated Thoroughbred racing event in the country. But from spring clear through late autumn, it's a fine time for touring the hilly, verdant swatch of northern Kentucky that includes the state's two largest cities, Louisville and Lexington. Despite the region's generally conservative demeanor, Louisville has a growing core of hip neighborhoods, an increasingly locavore-driven restaurant scene, first-rate arts and culture, and one of the world's largest gay nightclubs. And collegiate Lexington - just 75 miles away - makes a charming base for exploring nearby horse farms and acclaimed small-batch bourbon distilleries.

Louisville

A large, modern metropolis (city-county population 721,000) on Kentucky's Ohio River border with Indiana, Louisville (pronounced loo-uh-vull) grew from its 1778 founding into a prominent transportation hub, first for riverboats, then for the railroad, and more recently as the worldwide air cargo hub for UPS. As with other cities along Midwestern waterways, the population boomed throughout the 19th century with Germans, Irish, and other European immigrants as well as a sizable African-American community. Today the city is a center of education and medical research at the University of Louisville, and a production center of everything from trucks to Kentucky bourbon.

Downtown near the Ohio River, along West Main Street and nearby streets, you'll find an impressive stock of grand, Victorian cast-iron buildings that date to the city's shipping days - this is also where a few of the city's gay nightspots are. A paved RiverWalk affords great views of the city skyline and many bridges connecting with Indiana. Synonymous with the city is the Louisville Slugger Museum, where the famous wooden bats used by Major League Baseball are manufactured (actually in the adjacent Hillerich & Bradsby factory) - it's part of the riverfront Cultural District that includes the excellent Frazier International History Museum, Louisville Science Center, and Muhammad Ali Center.

Louisville excels when it comes to the arts, with respected opera and ballet companies, the highly regarded Louisville Orchestra, and the Actors Theatre of Louisville, which hosts the acclaimed Humana Festival of New American Plays every spring. Many major musical and dramatic events are staged at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts.

You'll find a number of gracious residential districts both downtown and south of it, and a particular lively and gay-popular stretch of businesses and restaurants along Bardstown Road in southeastern Louisville's Highlands and Cherokee Triangle neighborhoods. Anchoring this part of town are leafy and beautifully kept Cherokee Park and historic Cave Hill National Cemetery.

Due south of downtown, Old Louisville is an impressive neighborhood of Victorian mansions bordered by the sprawling campus of the University of Louisville, which enrolls around 20,000 students. The school's Speed Art Museum has fine collections of American antiques and art by both European and American masters. Not far from here you'll also find the world-famous Churchill Downs, site of the Kentucky Derby - a museum here traces the history of this renowned event.

Many of the city's most gay-popular eateries are on Bardstown Road, including the community's favorite java joint, Days Espresso (dayscoffee.com), a two-room space with local art and great coffee. Also along this stretch is Lilly's (www.lillyslapeche.com), where you can sample such contemporary regional American specialties as catfish spring rolls with Asian dipping sauce, and locally farmed pork confit and braised shoulder.

One of Louisville's most distinctive emerging neighborhoods for shopping and eating is the East Market District, a relatively compact stretch of cafes, galleries, and funky shops that's just a short drive east of downtown. Here be sure to check out Bodega at Felice (www.thebodegaatfelice.com) - a trendy market, deli, and coffee bar all in one - and Toast on Market (www.toastonmarket.com), which serves tantalizingly tasty breakfast and lunch fare, including a memorable Monte Cristo.

Other dining standouts include downtown's modern take on down-home cooking, Hillbilly Tea (www.hillbillytea.com) - try the "road kill stew" of venison, chicken, and mountain vegetables with braised greens and corn pone), and a handful of spots along lively Frankfort Avenue, including including Heine Brothers Coffee (heinebroscoffee.com) and Blue Dog Bakery (www.bluedogbakeryandcafe.com), which serves tapas on weekend evenings.

Louisville's gay bars are spread around the city, with a few standouts downtown, including the legendary Connection Louisville (www.theconnection.net), an immense nightclub with several distinct spaces, from a drag show bar

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Hear Me Out -
Lady Gaga & Matraca Berg

By Chris Azzopardi

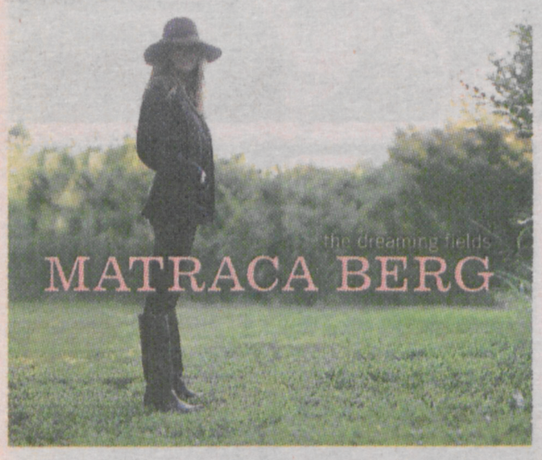
Lady Gaga, "Born This Way"

The third album from pop's poker-faced ingénue isn't quite album-of-the-decade deserving, as the star herself claimed it would be, but dear Gaga, it's gotta be the gayest.

Gaga's message of self-love in the face of adversity isn't just part of the "Born This Way" emancipation proclamation, on which she celebrates all kinds of queers with kitschy ridiculousness that only Mother Monster could pull off. She does it again on the surging "Hair," her mane weirdly a metaphor for freedom from oppression. Those songs, and almost every other club anthem on this very gay gospel of Gaga, come at you like a wrecking ball: big beats, bigger vocals and concert-made credos of liberation, religious or otherwise, that never let up.

The vagueness of "The Edge of Glory" does it a favor, reflecting some of the cheesy best of '80s pop with its totally ambiguous narrative and second coming of the sax. "Scheiße," with mock-German jargon and techno sheen, could be the theme song for a "Brüno" sequel (couldn't you just see him doing the catwalk to it?); the aggressive "Bad Kids" is dirtied up in a hard-edged melody that's also sweetly endearing for all you naughty rebels. But all's not tip-top: "Americano" is a second-rate "Alejandro," and "Marry the Night" probably works better live. More moments like "Bloody Mary," an easy-going song about a bad romance, would be a welcome reprieve from the exhausting anthems. Ultimately, "Born This Way" is strong enough for the everyman but made for the monsters. Two paws up.

Grade: B



Matraca Berg, "The Dreaming Fields"

Blessed with a sterling voice, it's a wonder we haven't heard more from Matraca Berg in the last 14 years. That's how long it's been since the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee, who typically works behind-the-scenes and has written hits for such country heavyweights as Martina McBride and Reba McEntire, released any new material of her own. Thankfully, the wait is over. One of the best albums of the year, Berg's "Dreaming Fields" is mellow singer-songwriter music for the soul, mirroring legends like Emmylou Harris and Carole King with stellar writing and Berg's voice – a mellifluous sound that knows how to get lost in a song. When she poignantly recalls pre-suburban pastures on "The Dreaming Fields," you wanna go back in time; when she mourns the death of a loved one on "Racing the Angels," you wish you could bring that person back.

Given her songwriting credits, none of it's that country – even with a song title as Southern-cooked as "Your Husband's Cheating on Us," a saucy number about a two-timer, the breather in the set. The rest of "Dreaming Fields" is built on intense emotions of nostalgia and heartbreak, mourning a relationship's imminent end on "Clouds" and escaping an abusive one on "If I Had Wings." "A Cold, Rainy Morning in London in June" closes this marvelously moving album on just piano and strings – and if there were any doubts that Berg should be a bigger deal, this is the song to change that.

Grade: A-

Also Out

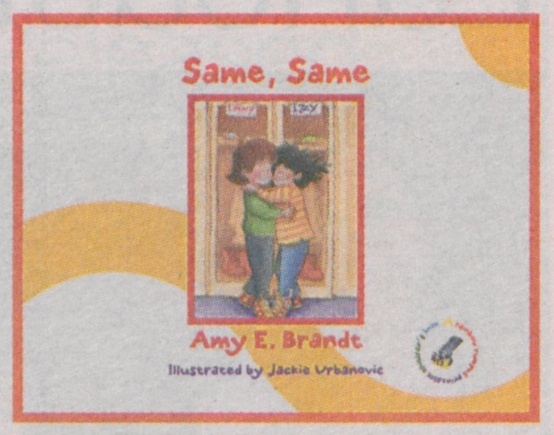
Brad Paisley, "This Is Country Music"

For as big of a country superstar as Brad Paisley is, he sure doesn't act like it. More than ever his latest LP casts him as the dude next door, where his sign-of-the-times songs – about unemployment ("A Man Don't Have to Die") and sweating the small stuff ("One of Those Lives") – are right in line with his image. The title track is awkwardly self-congratulatory, but one of the better songs on the album. All in all, though, this one's no "American Saturday Night", his last LP. But it's not a bad way to spend the rest of the week.

Ford & Lopatin, "Channel Pressure"

It's back to the future for this Brooklyn electro duo, formerly of Games. Glitchy synths and spastic drum machines – both which fold into greatness on "Too Much Midi (Please Forgive Me)" – take center stage during the production team's space-rock opera, a conceptual story about their teenage years. It's a long one, dragging out the musical ADD just a few songs too much, but some of the '80s-drenched throwbacks – especially "World of Regret," a stuttery whomp rhythm with electro squiggles and fluttery vocals – are as fantastically old-fashioned as cut-off shorts.

Need Help Parenting?



Rainbow Rumpus, the online magazine for kids and teens with lgbt parents, is launching a free series of downloadable books designed to fight bullying and promote acceptance. Each book tells a story about a child with lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender parents, and gives parents and teachers tools for talking about family diversity.

The newest title, "Same, Same," focuses on two pre-schoolers whose friendship founders when one learns to do something the other cannot. The main character's fathers support her as she figures out what to do. Young children from all types of families will identify with the friendship dilemma the characters face, be enthralled by the rhythm of the language, and enjoy the opportunity to create illustrations on the interior pages of the book.

There has been an overwhelmingly warm reception to the series with families and teachers downloading an average of 50 books per month in 2011. "We can't find any books in the bookstores and libraries where we live," noted one parent. "We're so glad these are here."

The series has been recognized as an important new tool by both educators and curriculum developers. "These types of books are difficult to find at the library," noted one teacher, "and I think it's important to have them in the classroom." The benefits to students are enhanced by a teachers' guide included with each title. Welcoming Schools, a HRC sponsored curriculum which combats bullying, lists Rainbow Rumpus' picture books as a useful resource. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) also works to increase awareness of the books among educators.

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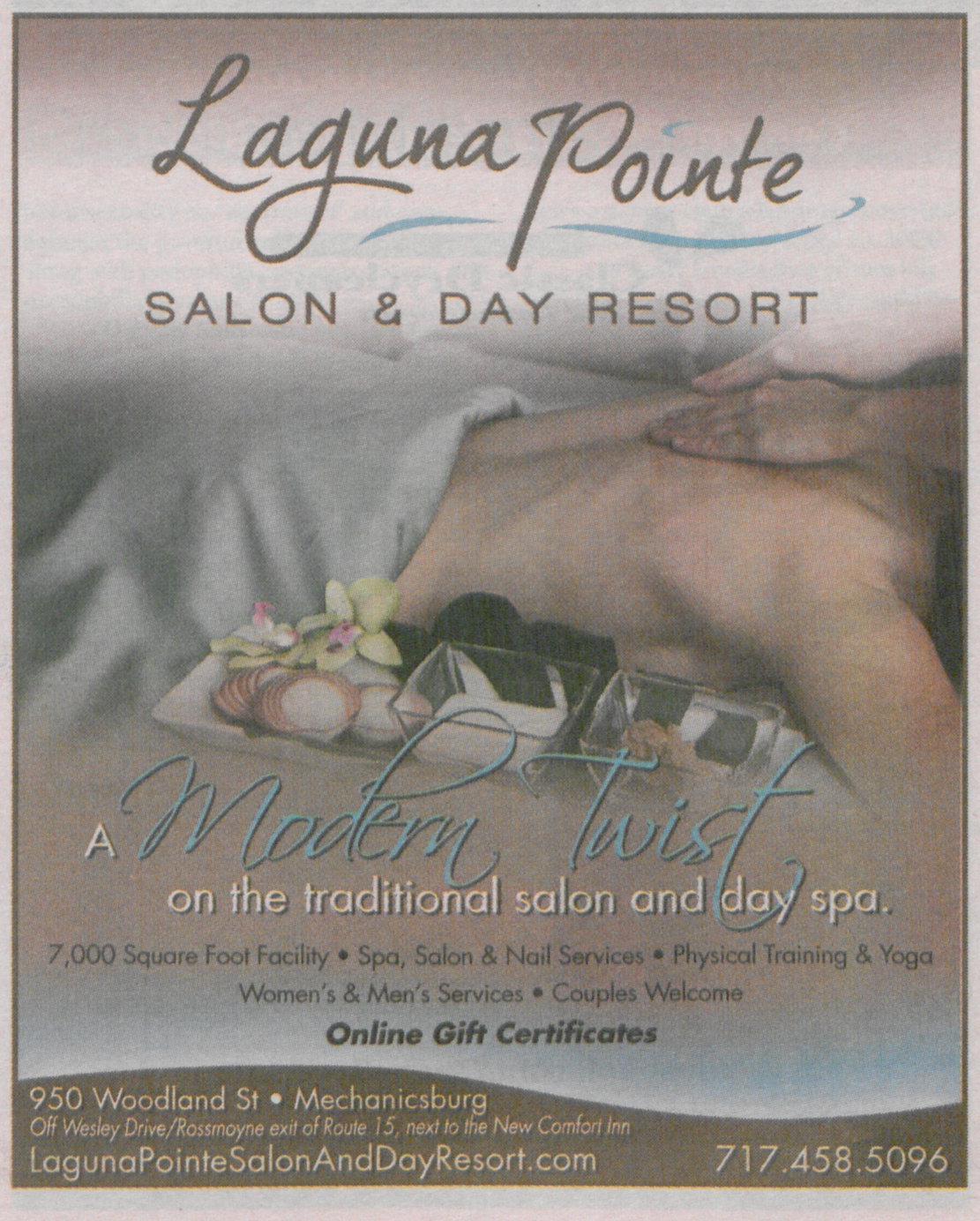
The MAGAZINE for YOUTH with LGBT Parents
www.rainbowrumpus.org www.rainbowriot.org

The picture books are available at - http://www.rainbowrumpus.org/htm/printable.htm .

Contact: Laura Matanah, 612.721.6442, lauramatanah@rainbowrumpus.org



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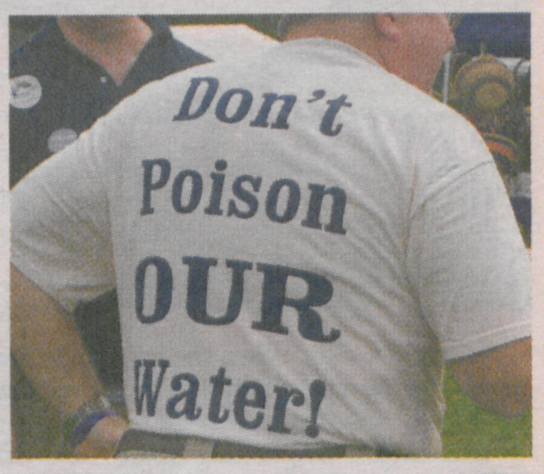


Out of Town continued from page 26

to leather lounge (Boots, with its own entrance) to an area with male erotic dancers - there's something for all tastes here. Around the corner, Tryangles is locals-oriented cruise bar with male strippers on weekends.

At the other end of downtown, in the Cultural District, Starbase Q (www.starbaseq.com) is a popular, handsomely decorated bar with a welcoming staff, fun theme nights (country-western line dancing, cabaret, karaoke), and a great mix of guys - all ages and styles. Gay neighborhood spots south of downtown include Teddy Bears, Marty's Tavern, and the mostly lesbian bar Tink's Pub. Also of note is the famed Magnolia Bar & Grill (aka Mag Bar), an Old Louisville institution with a mixed gay-straight crowd and a fantastic juke box.

Downtown's Cultural District is home to one of the most fascinating accommodations in the country, the 21c Museum Hotel (www.21chotel.com). This luxe property with 90 sleekly designed rooms has been crafted out of a row of warehouses that once held bourbon and tobacco producers. The multilevel public areas comprise a dramatic, 9000-square-foot contemporary art museum, and the hotel also contains a chic spa, a full fitness center, and one of the hottest restaurants in the region, Proof on Main, which fuses mod Italian and Southern culinary traditions.

Stylistically, Louisville's grand Brown Hotel (www.brownhotel.com) is the polar opposite of 21c, but this regal 1923 property is every bit as cushy, its nearly 300 rooms outfitted with classic Old-English-inspired dark-wood furnishings and baths with Spanish marble. Make every effort to dine in the hotel's formal English Grill, and plan a breakfast or lunch in the more casual but renowned J. Graham's Cafe, which is famous as the home of the "Hot Brown" sandwich, a local take on a Welsh rarebit.

Other nice downtown options include the Hyatt Regency Louisville (www.louisville.hyatt.com), which is steps from nightlife and dining, the Residence Inn Louisville (www.marriott.com), and the bargain-priced but extremely basic Econo Lodge Downtown (www.econolodge.com) - the latter two are very close to The Connection.

The city's historic Old Louisville neighborhood has several gay-friendly B&Bs, all of them set in stately old homes with ornately appointed rooms - they include the Austin's Inn Place (www.austinsinnplace.com), the Culbertson Mansion (www.culbertsonmansion.us), and Columbine B&B (www.thecolumbine.com).

Lexington

A gentile, attractive city that's the state's center of higher education, Lexington (population 296,000) is surrounded by picturesque countryside graced with lovely old horse farms. Although the city has just one gay bar, the presence of the University of Kentucky has given the city a more progressive bent than much of the region, and in 2010 the city elected openly gay man Jim Gray as mayor.

For an appealing sidewalk stroll, walk south along Limestone Street where is passes through the campus of the University of Kentucky - you'll find a small strip of engaging shops and eateries here. The residential neighborhoods around the university comprise one road after another of gracious brick and limestone homes with neatly tended gardens and broad green lawns. A highlight is Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate, whose shaded grounds and ornate mansion is definitely worth touring. Another fine museum is the Hunt-Morgan House, a Federal 1814 mansion.

You can learn about the region's esteemed equine heritage at the Kentucky Horse Park, an actual thoroughbred-training facility where you can have a behind-the-scenes look at training and caring for these magnificent animals. If you're headed to Lexington from Louisville, go by way of U.S. 60, stopping for a look at the historic downtown of the state capital, Frankfort, the state capital, and passing through the quaint town of Versailles, which is home to one the respected single-batch bourbon makers, Woodford Reserve., which offers excellent tours.

Excellent dining options in Lexington include Metropole (www.metropolfinedining.com), which serves imaginative, regionally inspired cuisine, and the cozy French bistro Le Deauville (www.ledeauvilleresto.com). Also consider Alfalfa (www.alfalfarestaurant.com), which specializes in healthful veggie-oriented fare, and the legendary breakfast joint, Doodles (www.doodlesrestaurant.com) - just beware there's always a long wait for brunch on weekends.

Live performers and open-mic nights account for the success of Common Grounds Coffee House (www.commongroundsoflexington.com). You can also get full lunch here, a wide range of baked goods. The Bar Complex (www.thebarcomplex.com) is the city's most popular gay nightspot, right in the heart of downtown - it's always packed at happy hour and well into the evening. Also worth a look is the loveably gruff neighborhood joint Al's Bar (www.alsbarlexington.co), an eclectic but gay-friendly spot great burgers, live bluegrass, and stiff drinks - note the extensive list of small-batch Kentucky bourbons.

The upscale dance club Soundbar (www.soundbarlex.com) also has something of a gay following, especially with students from University of Kentucky.

Lexington has a nice mix of hotels and inns, with the upscale Gratz Park Inn (www.gratzparkinn.com) a particularly charming, centrally located option. The three-story 1906 hotel contains 41 pleasantly furnished rooms and a fine restaurant, Jonathan's, specializing in modern Kentucky cuisine. The seven-room, gay-friendly Lyndon House B&B (lyndonhouse.com) is perhaps the most romantic and luxurious inn in Lexington. Recommended chain hotels include downtown's Hyatt Regency Lexington (lexington.hyatt.com) and the more affordable Holiday Inn Express Downtown Lexington (www.hiexpress.com).

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website GayTravel.About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

Delaware and Marriage Data Is Released

A new research study released by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law shows that allowing same-sex couples to enter civil unions in Delaware would increase business activity but would reduce net state revenue by a small amount, or less than $400,000 a year. Civil unions would equalize the tax paid by same-sex couples and increase public employee benefits spending. The state budget would gain from reduced public assistance spending, increases in spending and tourism tax revenue, and civil union license fees.

"Civil unions would provide Delaware's same-sex unmarried couples with some much-needed legal protections at a minimal cost. The annual impact of providing civil unions is a hundredth of a percent of the State's annual budget," explains study co-author M. V. Lee Badgett, research director of the Williams Institute and professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

In calculating the net benefit to the State, the study predicts that 28 percent of Delaware's 2,677 same-sex couples, or 750 couples will enter civil unions within three years after the legislation is passed.

Most of the impact to the state budget comes from decreasing the tax burden on same-sex couples and increase public employee benefits spending. "Introducing civil unions means same-sex couples will pay the same income taxes as different-sex couples. Since there is no marriage penalty in Delaware, the tax burden on same-sex couples will drop. The same result occurs with estate and transfer taxes," explains study co-author, Craig Konnoth. "Furthermore, unlike many other states contemplating such laws, Delaware does not already provide benefits to the families of its employees in same-sex couples. Treating the families of same-sex couples equally therefore increases state spending on employee benefits."

The impact is reduced by revenue gains in spending on ceremonies and public assistance savings. As study co-author Jody Herman notes, "Spending on civil union ceremonies will bring in nearly $650,000 in tax revenues over three years." Moreover, the study notes, since a partner's financial assets are taken into account when assessing eligibility for public assistance, the State's public assistance expenditures will drop.

The Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy advances law and public policy through rigorous, independent research and scholarship, and disseminates its work through a variety of education programs and media to judges, legislators, lawyers, other policymakers and the public.

Study: www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute.

Pressure Mounts continued from page 24

homosexuality an "aberration" and condemned the government for supporting it along with pedophilia, sadomasochism, and necrophilia (January 2, 2008)

• O'Reilly links same-sex marriage to UK woman who "married" dolphin (January 5, 2006)

• On his radio program, O'Reilly continues obsession with inter-species marriages (September 16, 2005)

• On his radio program, O'Reilly again warns that same-sex marriage could lead to calls for nuptials with goats (April 15, 2005)

Fox News pushes anti-LGBT misinformation:

• Quick Fact: O'Reilly advances myth that DADT repeal will "cause a lot of morale problems" (April 21, 2010)

• Myths and falsehoods on Don't Ask, Don't Tell (February 24, 2010)

• Special Report pushes debunked claim that DADT repeal would "adversely impact" troop readiness (February 23, 2010)

• In latest bigoted smear, Fox leads right-wing media assault on Jennings' involvement with anti-AIDS group (October 23, 2009)

• Fox News' Hemmer latest to advance made-up charge that Jennings knew of "statutory rape" case and "never reported it" (October 1, 2009)

• Despite evidence to contrary, Fox News machine claims Jennings "cover[ed] up statutory rape" (September 30, 2009)

• O'Reilly smears hate crimes bill with false claim that pedophiles could be protected (May 6, 2009)

Fox News provides a platform for anti-LGBT extremism:

• Fox Invites Hate Group President Tony Perkins To Continue His Anti-Gay Misinformation Campaign (April 27, 2011)

• For DOMA reaction, Fox News turns first to anti-gay bigot Maggie Gallagher (February 23, 2011)

• On Fox & Friends, Perkins claims he's not "anti-gay" while promoting "research" that says "homosexual behavior is harmful" (December 9, 2010)

• Anti-gay bigotry isn't off-limits on Fox either (October 25, 2010)

• On Fox, MRC's Graham criticized MSNBC for "adding this lesbian Air America radio host, Rachel Maddow" to its lineup (September 9, 2008)

• Fox News guest Rudov "fear[s] ... the long-term consequences for children" of "promoting" "homosexual lifestyle" (April 7, 2008)

Media Matters for America is a Web-based, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) progressive research and information center dedicated to comprehensively monitoring, analyzing, and correcting conservative misinformation in the U.S. media.

Elizabeth Taylor's 'Wit & Wisdom' Punctuates Uncensored Life

By Frank Pizzoli

In Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958), Big Daddy Pollitt says, "I've got the guts to die. What I want to know is, have you got the guts to live?" Elizabeth Taylor answers yes, again and again. Author Joseph Papa captures her fierce life force in Elizabeth Taylor, A Passion for Life, The Wit and Wisdom of a Legend. Her answer to a film character aligns tightly with her personal life. For all her celebrity status – she created paparazzi riots and then became famous for being famous – Taylor was a fiercely private person. Her family held a private memorial when she died March 23 at the age of 79.

Papa is a publicist and writer living in New York City. A native of Richmond, Virginia, he is a former society page columnist for the Richmond Times-Dispatch. This is his first book. Not knowing the extent of Elizabeth Taylor's career, Papa watched all of her movies chronologically, he tells Central Voice. He read all of her interviews and then spent two years, seven months preparing his manuscript.

Shown on the set of Giant, 1956, Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson

Even with more than 50 films, three Academy Awards, including a special one for her humanitarian work, Taylor's defining role, and one that lasted long past her moviemaking days, was simply being "Elizabeth Taylor". She married and divorced, was in and out of hospitals with life threatening illnesses, she gained and lost weight, stood by Michael Jackson at his lowest hour, remained loyal to Rock Hudson when he revealed he had AIDS when HIV was still a stigma in Hollywood and beyond. She acquired a jewelry collection that seemed to rival Tiffany's. While a blinding star, she brought intense reactions from fellow actors. When Taylor won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in Butterfield 8, most critics praised her performance, but many people believed it to be a sympathy win because of a recent brush with death. Fellow nominee (The Apartment) Shirley MacLaine joked: "I lost to a tracheotomy!"

For all her celebrity status – she created paparazzi riots and then became famous for being famous – Taylor was a fiercely private person.

Francis Taylor (father), Elizabeth Taylor and Sara Taylor (mother).

Grouped by topic Taylor's quotes plus short timeline pieces punctuate her life. Together with a filmography and bibliography Papa's extensive research shores up readers with gaps in their knowledge and reminds readers who grew up with Taylor why they loved her in the first place. More than trivia, and most revealing, are the plausible insights gleaned from pouring over the assembled tidbits.

"My biggest shock was that her marriages started to make sense," Papa said, referring to her seven infamous walks down the aisle – one husband she married and divorced twice (Richard Burton), one she stole from Debbie Reynolds (Eddie Fisher), and one died. One senses that Taylor didn't like, or know how to, have an affair. Her quotes reveal a woman different on the inside than she was a master at portraying on the outside. Yet her life ruled majestic over tabloid news for about 15 years, she and Burton predecessors to Brangelina and TomKat hysteria. Her whirlwind affair with Burton brought condemnation from the Vatican, and knowing what we know now about that hypocritical bastion of self-loathing sexuality it could have been a compliment. Parallel to today's raging same-sex marriage debate, her words remain relevant: "Nobody tells me who to love, or not to love, who to be seen with and who not to be seen with." Papa says "She married like an old fashioned girl and divorced like a feminist."

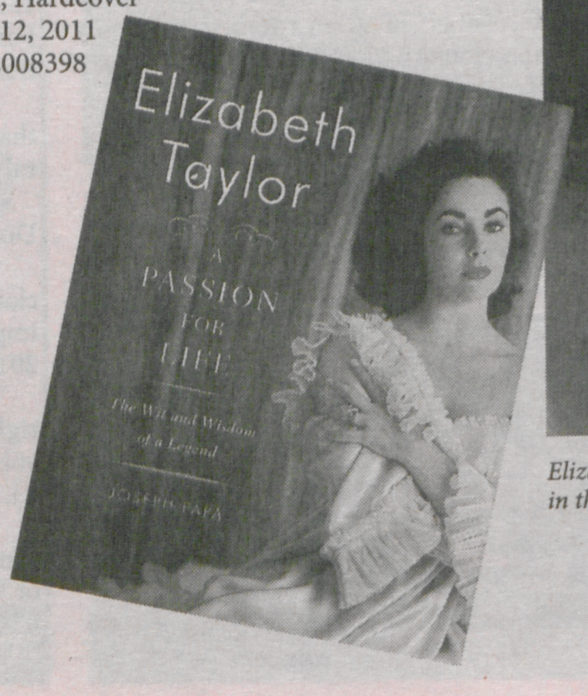
Taylor fiddled with her public-private roller coaster life as early as age 9 when she first began to see herself "as two separate people," the person and the commodity. Her career began at age 4 when she performed with several other children in a benefit dance recital for the Duchess of York (wife of George VI and future queen mother), and her two daughters, the future Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Margaret. Future royalty curtseyed before the court.

"It was not a normal life, of course. The demands, particularly on the emotional level, were killing," Taylor reflected. But she also thought a success as "a great deodorant. It takes away all your past smells.

BUtterfield8 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rXoeoGAI_g&playnext=1

ELIZABETH TAYLOR: A PASSION FOR LIFE
The Wit and Wisdom of a Legend
by Joseph Papa
Harper Design; Hardcover
On Sale: April 12, 2011
ISBN: 9780062008398

Joseph Papa, author of "Elizabeth Taylor, A Passion for Life, The Wit and Wisdom of a Legend."



Elizabeth Taylor, shown in 1959 with husband, singer Eddie Fisher on the set of Suddenly, Last Summer.

Elizabeth Taylor in a scene from the 1951 movie, A Place in the Sun.

Photos courtesy: Photofest

News Round Up – Easton, Pa., Delaware, DADT, Uganda

Easton City Council Advances Domestic Partner Benefits

Easton City Council last night advanced their proposed ordinance to provide domestic partner benefits to same-sex partners of City staff members. The proposal has been reviewed in committee since April and is now being considered by the full council with a final vote expected on May 25.

If passed, Easton will join Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Allentown, and Lancaster in providing partner benefits to same sex couples. "Easton is moving forward to protect families of its Gay and Lesbian employees who risk their lives for the safety of its citizens" says Liz Bradbury, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Diversity Network.

The ordinance, introduced by Councilman Michael Fleck, has bipartisan support and is expected to pass unanimously according to Adrian Shanker, Vice President of Pennsylvania Diversity Network, who has worked to build support for the ordinance. "It is clear that in 2011, this is not a Democrat issue, this is a human issue, and I am pleased to see strong support for this important proposal from Democrats and Republicans alike."

Delaware Governor Signs Civil Union Legislation

Saying "In Delaware – justice and equality move one way – and that is forward," Gov. Jack Markell signed landmark legislation last evening. His action makes Delaware one of only a handful of states to allow same-sex civil unions and fully recognize same-sex relationships.

Couple who enter into a civil union will enjoy the same rights, protections and obligations that exist for married spouses.

"This bill is about a new energy and excitement," said Markell. "The greater good is served when we speak out and fight hard when we see that bias, prejudice or even outdated laws attempt to lessen any one of us."

"Tonight is a wonderful night for lgbt equality in Delaware," said Lisa Goodman, president of Equality Delaware and host of the night's festivities." Rep. Melanie L. George, lead sponsor in the House, she believes "with every fiber of my being that this is the right thing to do."

Also under the bill, Delaware would recognize legal relationships that same-sex couples enter into in another jurisdiction – whether it is a civil union or marriage – and treat the relationship as a civil union.

DADT Snag?

Congressman Duncan Hunter (CA) wants to pass an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to potentially delay certification of open service by gay and lesbian members of the United States military.

"There is no appetite for the Hunter amendment, which would only distract from the comprehensive and on-going repeal implementation process," said Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director R. Clarke Cooper.

Also, the Department of the Navy's reversed it's previous decision of allowing same-sex marriages to take place in Navy facilities located in states in which same-sex marriage is legally recognized.

"At a time when the economy still needs attention, Osama Bin Laden was just killed, and revolution and conflict continue to rage across a fragile Middle East, having policy makers spend valuable and limited time on whether a few gay couples may or may not use a Navy facility for a private ceremony at some point in the future is just plain silly," said Alexander Nicholson, Executive Director of Servicemembers United and a former Army Interrogator who was discharged under DADT.

Is Ugandan "Anti-Homosexuality Bill" Killed?

The Associated Press is reporting that Ugandan Parliamentarians have scrapped plans to debate the so-called "Anti-Homosexuality Bill" after an international outcry. Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) had threatened to cut off aid to the East African country, while members of GetEQUAL protested outside the Ugandan embassy in Washington, D.C., yesterday afternoon. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch also criticized the measure that had once called for the death penalty for anyone convicted of repeated same-sex sex acts.

"If adopted, a bill further criminalizing homosexuality would constitute a significant step backwards for the protection of human rights in Uganda," said Hilary Fuller Renner, a spokeswoman for the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs. "Respect for human rights is key to Uganda's long-term political stability and democratic development, as well as its public health and economic prosperity."

NO LINK

Stigma & Substance Use in Adolescents Raised by Lesbians

The Williams Institute, a research center on sexual orientation law and public policy at UCLA School of Law, announces new findings from the U.S. National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study (NLLFS), the longest-running study ever conducted on American lesbian families (now in its 25th year).

In an article published in the Journal of Health Psychology, 17-year-old daughters and sons of lesbian mothers in the study who reported experiences of homophobic stigmatization did not report higher levels of substance use.

The study is the first to date to explore the association between homophobia and substance use in adolescents raised by lesbians. The 17-year-old offspring of lesbian parents from the largest, longest-running, longitudinal study of same-sex parented families were surveyed about substance use, experiences of homophobic stigmatization, and overall life satisfaction. Their responses were compared to a demographically matched group of adolescents from the national Monitoring the Future Survey conducted by the University of Michigan with funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Compared to these adolescents, the 78 adolescents with same-sex parents were more likely to report occasional substance use but not more likely to report heavy use.

"Most surprising was that we found no association between substance use and homophobic stigmatization or life satisfaction. This finding runs contrary to other studies that find experiences of discrimination and homophobia may be linked to increased substance use. It is possible that these families have helped their adolescents develop coping skills to remain resilient in the face of discrimination," says study co-author Naomi Goldberg, MPP.

Colorado Signs Enumerated Anti-bullying Law

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's recently signed a comprehensive anti-bullying bill that enumerates personal characteristics often targeted for bullying, including race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Colorado is the twelfth state to pass an enumerated anti-bullying law. The 11 other states that have such laws are Arkansas, California, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

Harrisburg Men's Chorus Seeks Artistic Director

Want to be an artistic director?

Harrisburg Men's Chorus recently announced the retirement of artistic director David Walker, who has served for eight years. The 2011-2012 season will be his last.

Walker is credited with taking the chorus to new heights under his talented leadership. They have attended 2 GALA (Gay and Lesbian National Choral Association) Festivals in Miami, Florida and San Jose, California with Denver, Colorado in 2012. David has encouraged collaboration with other musical groups both in Central Pennsylvania and abroad, including the New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus, the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus and the Arcona Reel Band. In the Harrisburg area, David has been instrumental in leading the Voices United concerts for 7 years. His sense of humor, wit and talents will be dearly missed.

As we say goodbye to David, the Harrisburg Men's Chorus is on the search for a new Artistic Director. The search will be opening in the Fall of 2011 to have a director in place by the Spring of 2012. If you or anyone you know has an interest in leading this dynamic chorus, please visit our website at www.harrisburgmenschorus.org where a job description/application is posted or send us a resume at Harrisburg Men's Chorus, P.O. Box 62201, Harrisburg PA 17106.

Our mission continues to be one of sharing the message of inclusion and tolerance with new audiences while maintaining the tradition of fusing humor and sentiment to create an unforgettable musical experience. The group brings the unique sound of a men's chorus to a variety of genres, effortlessly switching from jazz to show tunes to folk songs, making it a must-see Harrisburg staple

Jennifer Nettles Gives the Gays Some Sugar(land)

Country superstar speaks out on homophobia, girl crushes and being a gay man

Jennifer Nettles

Sugarland duo, Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush.

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

As the lovable lady half of supergroup Sugarland, Jennifer Nettles is country's answer to the contemporary diva – she can belt like the best of 'em. And though she has one hell of a voice, as does bandmate Kristian Bush, she doesn't just use it to sing the arena rock-inspired songs from their fourth and latest album, "The Incredible Machine". She uses it to speak to the duo's gay fans – even though so few country artists do.

In this rare sit-down with the singer, a powerhouse since "Stay" stormed the charts and nabbed a Grammy in 2009, Nettles talks coming out in country music, how she still loves her lesbians even if one of them – a former Sugarland band member – sued her, and why Adam Lambert turns her on.

With all of its arena rock and pop influences, "The Incredible Machine" is a departure from your country roots. Does Sugarland still consider itself a country act?

You know, I'm so grateful that country music found us first. I love all kinds of music, and clearly not only can you tell from Machine but even from songs on past albums or our cover choices. I just love to sing all kinds of music. That being said, I consider myself country if you like country, and if you don't like country but you like what we do – awesome! I love that, too. I think it's really what speaks to the human spirit.

As an artist, it always feels a little bit squishy to try to answer that question – because you never want to be pinned in one way or another, while at the same time I feel very proud to be called country. Obviously I'm so grateful that they play us on country radio and that country fans love it, and I'm grateful that pop fans love it as well. So what do I call it? I call it good.

Considering your cover choices, from Beyoncé's "Irreplaceable" to "Love Shack" and even "Stayin' Alive," I'm starting to think that maybe Jennifer Nettles has the musical taste of a gay man.

(Laughs) Yes, absolutely! What's not to love about that? And you would definitely think that if you saw our current show, because we've been closing with "Like a Prayer" by Madonna.

See, it's so true. I called it here first.

I will totally credit you with it. If people ask me, "What are your musical tastes?" from now on I will say that of a gay man. (Laughs)

Around the time the album was released, there was a higher reporting of suicides among gay youth – and the song "Stand Up" from Machine felt particularly relevant. What was on your mind when you wrote it?

There wasn't one specific event that inspired it. It's really a song about finding one's own voice wherever you feel unseen or wherever it is you feel you need to be empowered. Just as you're saying it resonated with you regarding the bullying and gay teen suicides, if the song can be a place of healing and a place of inspiration – man, I mean, that's why we do what we do as artists. So there wasn't one specific event that inspired that song as much as it is, I guess I should say both fortunately and unfortunately, a message that people need to hear and have needed to hear throughout the ages.

Do you get much feedback from gay people who are inspired by your music?

People sometimes will reach out with their personal stories. I did Nate Berkus' television show a number of months ago when we were about to release Machine, and in the audience was a woman who was a huge fan. She spoke to how our music really helped to empower her when she was coming out.

So I do get stories like that at times. Sometimes people share them out and openly and say "this was my specific experience as a gay person"; sometimes people just say, "Hey, you helped me through a hard time," and they don't go into specifics. But we've had coming out stories, and I feel honored to be able to help someone through that part of their life, for sure. All one really wants is to be seen as who we are, and to be able to be a part of that and be associated with someone who is coming into themselves – regardless of it being coming out, or figuring out what you want to do in your life – that's a beautiful time and a beautiful thing.

There's always a risk too, though, when someone comes out. I read that after country artist Chely Wright came out, she lost a considerable chunk of her fan base because she's living openly as a lesbian now. Do you think a country artist coming out really has a big affect on their fan base?

I don't know. People would tend to, I'm sure, stereotype quote-unquote country fans as being either more conservative or less tolerant or more close-minded. I don't know when I look out at my audience. I am sure there are people who may be intolerant that are in the audience, but when I look out there, I see such a wide demographic that it's hard for me to speak specifically. And I definitely can't speak for all country artists – nor could I speak to all country fans as to whether there would be an affect. One would think stereotypically that there would be. I would like to think not. But at the end of the day, the reality is in many ways, as a culture in this country, we still have far to go as far as people understanding, being educated and being comfortable with different lifestyles, whatever that may be.

Many country stars have actually addressed gay issues in the press, including Martina McBride, Rascal Flatts and Dolly Parton. And yet we still don't have a major country artist who's out. Why do you think that is?

I don't know why that is. Let's discuss here for a moment, because clearly there are gay country fans. I can't even speak as to why. Why do you think? Maybe we might come up with something here.

My guess is that they're putting their career on the line; it's scary for a country artist to come out in such a conservative arena, as you said.

But isn't it scary for any artist to come out? Even in mainstream pop it is. I mean, thank god – and I've said this before – for Adam Lambert. Thank god for eyeliner. I have needed a sexy man to wear eyeliner since The Cure. Since Robert Smith no one has really been able to do it for me in that way.

We need a country artist who'd wear eyeliner.

Right! But then, well, when you look at that we don't even allow – come on. We will allow eyeliner on the girls, that's for sure, but as far as image maybe it's not conducive to – I don't know why. But someone needs to.

Let's talk about the legal battles that you had with ex-member Kristen Hall, who sued you last year for profits she said she was owed. Did it leave a bad taste in your mouth for lesbians?

(Laughs) Ba-dum-ch! Well, obviously, I'm not allowed to speak about the legal battles, but I love lesbians. Come on, let's be honest. It doesn't matter. Whatever. How hypocritical of me would that be to say I had a bad experience with this one individual or a good experience with this other individual and it totally makes me think that everyone is like that? Oh, please. It doesn't. But I love the way you asked the question.

Who's your girl crush?

There are so many wonderful women out there. As far as actresses go, I love Meryl Streep.

You really "are" a gay man.

Maybe this will continue the whole idea that I'm actually a gay man: I have this thing for British women. I love Judi Dench. I love Helen Mirren. I love these women, and I definitely do have big girl crushes on them. I'm trying to think as far as musicians go. I mean, what's not to love about Beyoncé?

I read that you want to be on "Glee".

I would love to be on "Glee", thus furthering the myth that I'm a gay man. (Laughs)

continued on next page >

Jennifer Nettles continued from page 32

I was thinking they could work you in as Kurt's mom in flashbacks. What do you think of being the dead mother of a gay son?

I would love it! Anyway they could work me in – I would be the janitor sweeping the hallway of the school and cleaning out lockers, I don't care.

Based on your music videos, you're actually a really great actress. You're so convincing in the "Stay" video, but then "Stuck Like Glue" just reinforces how great of an actress you really are.

(Laughs) Or how great of a stalker I am.

Do you have any interest in acting?

I do! And I actually love it. Theater is definitely something that, through the course of my childhood and even in college, I enjoyed participating in. I would love to do theater, or as far as movies or television goes, if the right thing came along I would definitely entertain it. Right now everything has been so focused on my music career, and obviously music is my first love, so I've been focused there. But if the right thing came along, absolutely! I mean obviously I love doing it; I have a lot of fun in the videos. I would definitely be open to that.

So just when I thought you couldn't get any more adorable, you dance around in your pajamas in Sara Bareilles' "Uncharted" video. How did that come about?

Sara just reached out and said, "Hey, I'm doing this video and asking all my friends to be a part of it. Would you consider doing it?" I was like, "Sure, just tell me when you need it." She wrote: "I need it tomorrow!" And I was like, OK, I'm just going to do something casual. So when I got up that morning, I said, "Hey, I'm going to do that in my pajamas – that's casual enough." And that's what I did. It was fun!

In the spirit of Machine, what are some of your favorite incredible machines?

Ooh, I hate to say it, and I'm a bit of a "Luddite," but I would say that if I did not have my Blackberry it would be a challenging time. It keeps me connected. Unfortunately – maybe people will gasp – I don't get into a lot of toys and games, like the apps. I wish I loved them, because I feel like there's a club out there that I'm not a part of. (Laughs)

I also think, as I'm sitting in my dressing room right now looking around, for me as a singer, a humidifier is a pretty friggin' incredible machine. And I just got a new place and I actually have a dishwasher, and that's an incredible machine. I didn't have one for years. I took it out to put a wine refrigerator in – because I have my priorities!

From summer season opener Moonlight and Magnolias at Totem Pole Playhouse with, left to right, Merideth Kaye Clark, Jon Liebetrau, Paris Peet, and Ray Ficca.

Totem Pole Playhouse Runs through August

The Totem Pole Playhouse runs through August with these shows:

It Could Be Any One of Us shows from June 28th – July 10th. It is sponsored by The Orchards and the media sponsor is Main Line Broadcasting.

Suite Surrender runs from July 12th – 24th and is sponsored by Mister Ed's Elephant Museum and Candy Emporium and Orrstown Bank.

Honus and Me will be presented from July 26th – August 7th and is sponsored by F & M Trust.

Performances of Southern Crossroads will be from August 9th – 21st. Rotz & Stonesifer CPA and M & T Bank.

A special post-season presentation of **Late Night Catechism III 'Til Death Do Us Part will run from August 24th – 28th.**

Info: 888-805-7056; www.TotemPolePlayhouse.org.

The 'Eyes' Have It

Athletes need to wear protective eyewear, according to the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology.

From major league baseball stadiums to small-town softball fields, athletes are competing against each other, building physical fitness, entertaining millions and teaching the value of hard work and teamwork.

But for more than 40,000 athletes each year, the game can be ruined by an errant finger or a misjudged catch. That's the number of sports-related eye injuries that occur annually in the US. Approximately one-third of eye-injury victims are children.

The only way to prevent a sports-related eye injury is for athletes to wear appropriate, sport-specific protective eyewear properly fitted by an eye care professional. Lenses made from polycarbonate materials provide the highest level of impact protection; they can withstand the impact of a ball or other projectile traveling at 90 miles per hour.

"Athletes need to use protective eyewear because eye injuries can be devastating," said Kenneth P. Cheng, MD, PAO President and pediatric ophthalmologist. "Eye injuries are one of the leading causes of visual impairment in children. The injuries range from abrasions of the cornea and bruises of the lids to internal eye injuries, such as retinal detachments and bleeding inside the eye. Unfortunately, some of these young athletes end up with permanent vision loss and blindness."

Many sports create risk for eye injuries, however, protection is available for many activities, including basketball, baseball, hockey, football, lacrosse, fencing, paintball and water polo, as well as racquetball, soccer and downhill skiing. "The solution is simple: wear eye protection anytime you are playing sports, especially those that involve small balls at high velocity," said Dr. Cheng. Most sporting leagues don't require children to wear eye protection, so parents must insist that their children wear eye protection when they play. "Parents also can set a good example by wearing eye protection when playing sports."

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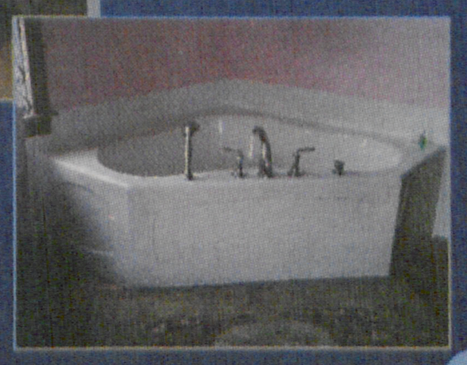

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